



Pilot project pre-testing:
Create 'know and show' garden sombreros!

Objective:

Children create garden sombreros that illustrate what they know about climate change and gardening. In addition to being a helpful evaluation pre-test, these hats are functional by helping to protect the children from the sun while they are working in the garden!

Overview:

The objective of this activity is to make wearable works of art that illustrate children's understanding of the topic of climate change and what they can do about it in the garden. This activity is both a creative arts project, as well as an effective evaluation tool. Through making the hats twice, once at the beginning of the summer program and again at the end of the program, you will be able to identify a change in the group's knowledge and understanding of climate change and gardening.

Time:

- 1 hour during the program pre-session

Materials:

- 2-inch clear tape
- Newspaper
- Miscellaneous art supplies (markers, yarn, glitter, pipe cleaner, tissue paper – really whatever you can think of! Try to use recycled materials wherever possible.)

Instructions:

Make the Hat

- Place the middle of two large, square sheets of newspaper on the top of a student's head.
- Lay the rest of the paper flat against the student's head.
- Tape around the newspaper starting right over the ear, and continue wrapping until the tape goes all the way around the student's head.
- Curl up the edges of the newspaper to form the brim of the hat.

Decorate the Hat

- Simply ask, without prompting, a question related to this pilot project, such as: what is climate change and how does it impact the garden? Or, what can we do

in the garden to help stop climate change? Think about a question along these lines that the children will understand.

- Encourage children to decorate their hats, with different art supplies, to show what they know. Encourage them to be creative, but do not offer suggestions or prompting, as the goal here is to find out *what they know about the topic*. It's ok if they don't know much, as this will hopefully change by the end of the summer! However, they might still be able to relate to the concept of climate change in a simple way, such as by drawing a very hot sun and plants drying up, or drawing how planting trees makes the planet a beautiful, green place.

Describe the Hat

- When everyone's finished their hats, encourage them to show their creation to the group and talk about what each decoration or item means.
- As they do this, jot down the numbers and range of responses.
- For example, when asked what plants need, children may show water drops, and a sun. Note those as examples of two different needs. Note, too, any misinformation you see presented.

Wear the Hat

- Once everyone has presented their hats to the group, and you have finished writing down their range of responses, invite the children to wear their hats when they go out into the garden.
- You can explain to them that these hats are called 'sombros'. Sombrero is a Spanish word which means 'shade'. These hats create shade and are a great way to get protection from the hot summer sun!
- It might be a good idea to have a box in the classroom where you can keep the hats, so the children can keep them there all summer and wear them out to the garden on sunny days!