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Farm Discoveries: Reflection

This learning tool was exploratory. Growing up as the daughter of a crop farmer, I felt like farming was a meaningful theme for me to teach the students. Fall season is also harvesting season for the Quebec farmers. Therefore, it was great way to end the autumn theme.

The lesson began by virtually bringing an expert into the class. I filmed a video of a crop farmer who explained two of the more popular crops in Quebec: soybean and corn. The video also explained the different machinery needed for farmers. The students demonstrated interest in the information by talking about the machinery and the seeds after the video. The tool was open-ended for the students, meaning there was not product. The tool focussed on play and the process of learning. It included corn seeds, soybean seeds, small farm animal figurines, wooden alphabet/number beads, fine motor tools, pipe cleaners, and sectioned plates. Students would make their names with the beads, separate the different materials, use the fine motor tools to pick up the material, play with the farm animals by creating scenarios, and more. They showed teamwork and exploration while playing with this tool. Some students used the container filled with the seeds, animals, and beads as a sensory tool by putting their hands in it and feeling about the container.

This tool showed the importance of the exploration natural objects. It invited the students to engage in material they may have never seen before. It also engaged them in opportunities to learn materials of the curriculum through play (fine motor, separating, counting, spelling, etc.). It emphasizes the strength that play has on cognitive and social development for children.