



### SPRING PLANT MARKET

#### Summary of project

Each year the 6th grade class of the Waldorf School in Oslogrow plants for a market that is held every spring. The experience of putting tiny seeds into the soil and then carefully cultivating them is an important experience for many young children. It is even more exciting when the growing leads to selling the plants and earning money. The



The experience builds confidence, a sense of proud accomplishment, development of knowledge and skills concerning cultivation and development of key competences in mathematics.

#### Who is involved

The students in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade of the Waldorf school in Tønsberg grow plants to sell at a spring market each year. One part-time teacher who has worked both as a gardener and a farmer takes the class to a greenhouse where they raise the plants from March to May.

#### Key steps

When the students come to the greenhouse, they learn to mix compost, sand and peat, in order to make a good soil to sow the seeds in. Boxes are filled with soil and the students carefully add labels with the names and varieties of the plants, the date of planting and their own names on. Each time they visit the greenhouse, they sow more seeds and water the boxes. During March and April each student gets the chance to come to the greenhouse every second week in a group of 12-14. As the plants grow, they are transplanted into pots with richer soil. Each pot is labelled and set into larger boxes. Around the first or second week of May when the danger from frost is usually over, the plants are transported to the school. The students set up a stand and organize the plants in groups. They



## **CASE STUDY**

are instructed on how to ask the customers about what they are interested in and then offer to help them find the plants. The students have learned not only the names, but also about what the plants are used for and how to grow them.

### **How are the children involved?**

The young students, 11-12 years of age are involved in all parts of the project, from choosing the plants and ordering the seeds, to mixing the soil, sowing, cultivating and selling the plants at the market.

### **How is the project linked to food and farming?**

The work with the plant market gives the students experience in different aspects of agriculture and gardening. They learn what is possible to grow in a cold northern European climate, about the lifecycle of different plants and the requirements for growing them. In addition, the contact with customers and pricing the plants are important learning experiences.

### **How is the project linked to the school curriculum?**

The plant market is connected to several school subjects. Natural science comes through working with the development of the plants and their different needs. Maths is used to make a budget for the purchase of the seeds and what is needed for production. Social skills are also used when meeting the customers and in working together as a team when raising the plants.

