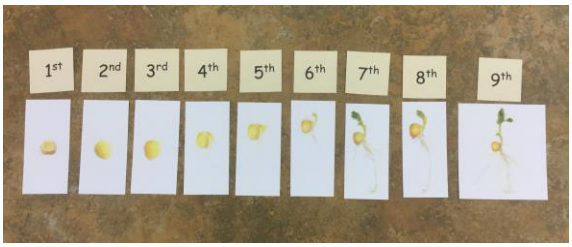
Happy Spring! Here is the Math Vitamin for the Week.

Science, Math, Sequencing, and Ordinal Numbers

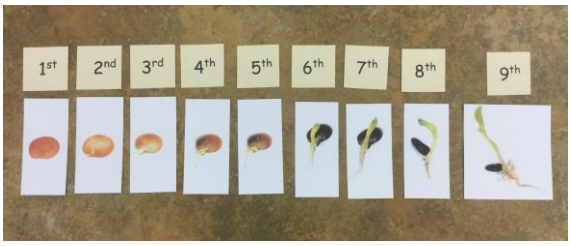
As spring arrives and we turn to studying growth, change, and transformation, the science experiences we offer lend themselves to discussions of **sequencing** over time. Giving children experiences to process life science sequences (by ordering stages of growth and change) also provides opportunities to teach and reinforce **ordinal numbers**.

In the examples below, children are invites to look closely and carefully in order to sequence:

The sprouting of a pea



The sprouting of a bean



The life cycle of a butterfly

Once children have ordered the pictorial representations, they are invited to label numerically each stage of change. The numeral cards depict the ordinal numbers, which with explicit teaching can often be read by young children.

Once children have sequenced the cards and numbers, they are asked to tell the story from beginning to end, using each ordinal number -"First there was an egg. Second, it hatched into a larva. Third, it grew into a caterpillar. . . ."

Happy Spring! (Please email hgiven@k12.somerville.ma.us for sets of these materials.)