Title: Plant Parts—Observing and Sorting  
Grade: 1st Grade

Content: Science/English Language Arts  
Duration: 15 minutes each for 2 days

Standard:  
- 1-LS3-1A LS1.A: Structure and Function: Plants have different parts (roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits) that help them survive and grow. (1-LS1-1)

Objective:  
Students will observe and collect items from nature to sort into different categories.

Resources Needed:  
- Paper and pencil  
- Container or plastic bag  
- Crayons or markers

Introduction/Description:  
In this activity, your child will learn about nature, observation, and categorizing while having a fun nature hunt. They will create a chart to show the sorted items.

Example:

Steps:  
Day 1  
- Tell your child that he/she will go on a nature hike and hunt for plant products.  
- Make sure your nature hike is in a place with lots of different types of plants so that a variety of items can be found.  
- Take the container or plastic bag along on your hike, and have your child look for some of the following plant products on the ground or hanging from plants.  
  - Pods  
  - Seeds/Winged “Seeds”  
  - Acorns Pinecones Spiny-husked nuts or other prickly brown balls  
  - Berries  
  - Buds  
  - Branches  
  - Leaves
Once he/she has the collection of tree products, take them home and organize them by the categories in PLANT PARTS.

Day 2

Make a simple chart that shows the items and the way you sorted them. Include:

- Title of the chart = PLANT PARTS
- Draw lines to section off the page and label each section with a plant part.
- Draw a picture or sketch of each item in the correct place on the chart. Add the details.
- Challenge: Label what plant you think each item might be from.
  - If you are able, look it up online to see if you are correct

Finished Product:
You may share your completed chart with your teacher. Take a picture of all the items you collected and share it with your teacher.

Adaptations:

- Complete more sorts with your items to observe additional characteristics
  - Texture: smooth, spiky, bumpy, rough, silky, etc.
  - Color
  - Plant type: tree, bush, grass, flower, weed, etc.
- Sort the actual items into piles and record it in a photograph in place of drawing if your child struggles with fine motor skills.
- Research more about the most interesting thing you found. Write three things you learned about the item and share it with your teacher.
- Practice making categories and sorting other items around the house.
  - Rocks, toys, foods, money, clothes, shoes