



# The Wishing Tree — Lesson Plan

Grade: Pre-K–2 | Duration: 40–50 minutes | CASEL Domain: Self-Management

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**Objective:** Students will understand that meaningful growth takes patience and that invisible progress (roots) is happening even when we can't see results.

**Essential Question:** *"What's the difference between a wish that's granted and a wish that's grown?"*

**Materials:** The personalized story, Small pots, soil, and fast-growing seeds, Watering can, Paper and crayons

**Vocabulary:** Wish, Patience, Tend, Sprout, Root, Nurture, Growth, Invisible, Trust, Bloom

## ANTICIPATORY SET (5 MIN)

Hold up a seed and a flower. Ask: "What happened between these two? How long did it take? What did it need?" Write responses on the board.

## DIRECT INSTRUCTION (15 MIN)

Read aloud. Pause at the empty soil — ask what's happening underground. Pause at the frustration. Pause at the sprout. Emphasize: the waiting IS the growing, not an obstacle to it.

## GUIDED PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Plant wish-seeds together. Write "I wish" cards. Discuss: what will this seed need every day? What will YOUR wish need every day?

## INDEPENDENT PRACTICE (10 MIN)

Create an Invisible Growth drawing: surface (what you see) and underground (what's growing). Write: "Right now I'm growing \_\_\_\_\_ and you can't see it yet."

## CLOSURE (5 MIN)

Water the class seeds together. Share: "One thing I'm patient about is \_\_\_\_\_."

## ASSESSMENT

Track seed-tending consistency over the week. Review invisible growth drawings. Exit ticket: "What grows underground before we can see it?"

## DIFFERENTIATION

**Support:** Use picture sequence cards: seed, soil, water, wait, sprout. Provide drawing templates.

**Extend:** Create a "Patience Journal" to track their wish-seed and personal growth daily. Write tips for other kids who are waiting.

## HOME CONNECTION

Send home seed care instructions and the "I wish" card. Encourage families to tend a plant together and talk about invisible growth.

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