



## **Therapeutic Horticulture Activity Spider Plant Babies**

Source: *Health Through Horticulture: Indoor Gardening Activity Plans*, Chicago Botanical Garden

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Overview: Propagating spider plant (*Chlorophytum comosum*) by using “runners” or plantlets produced by a mother plant.

Precautions:

1. none

Completion Time: 45-60 minutes



Materials: (10 participants)

1. Small pots (12)
2. Small saucers (12)
3. Spider plant (*Chlorophytum comosum*) with at least 14 plantlets (1)
4. Paper clips, small (14+)
5. 12 plant labels
6. Sauce bottles for watering (1-10)
7. Bucket with water (1-2) or water source (1)

8. Soilless potting mix in bin (~ 1 qt)
9. Small scoop (1, or same number of potting mix bins)
10. Snips (1)
11. Small wooden dowel to use as dibbler (1-11)
12. Magnifying glass (optional) (1-10)

### Pre-Session Prep:

1. Make plant labels.
2. Pot up example of finished planting.
3. Pre-wet potting mix.

### Step-By-Step Process/Instructions:

1. Talk about how spider plants create plantlets. What their light and watering needs are (medium indirect light and keeping the soil evenly moist)
2. Show an example of a potted plantlet.
3. Take the mother plant around to let participants pick their baby plant; snip the plantlet chosen and set at table with participant; offer magnifying glass for examination of plantlet and its roots.
4. Pass out work bins (see tip below) or
5. Pass out pots.
6. Give one pot to yourself to use as an example of each step.
7. Fill all pots with some potting mix.
8. Show how to make a hole with the dibbler.
9. Pass out dibblers for participants to make holes.
10. Show how to set the plantlet into the hole and gently move soil over the base.
11. Encourage/assist participants in planting their plantlet.
12. Unbend paper clips and use them to anchor into soil as needed.
13. Show an example of gently squirting water at the base of the plant until water flows out of hole in the bottom into the saucer or work bin if using.
14. Pass out saucers.

15. Encourage/assist participants in watering their plant.
16. Check if plants need to be adjusted or soil firmed around the base for support.
17. Offer choice of plant marker.
18. Reiterate the care, light and water needs of the new plant.

Tips:

1. Use recycled tiny pie tins as saucers
2. For plant labels make flags with washi tape (2 layers on top of each other if thin) on the end of a toothpick.
3. Make several different color label flags so participants can have an opportunity to make a choice.
4. Use shoebox size plastic bins for each participant to have a work space if mess is of issue; put pot, dibbler, and sauce bottle with water in each bin ahead of time.

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