# 2014 Unit – From Little Things Big Things Grow

**Throughlines:**

**Learning about and living in an innovative world**

1. There is an inter-dependence between all living things and the environment. The way we live, impacts upon the environment and all living things.
2. There are laws, systems and cycles that govern and help us explain the way the physical and natural environment works.

**AUSVELS Learning Focus: Science**

Young children have an intrinsic curiosity about their immediate world. Asking questions leads to speculation and the testing of ideas. Exploratory, purposeful play is a central feature of their investigations.

In this stage of schooling students’ explorations are precursors to more structured inquiry in later levels. They use the senses to observe and gather information, describing, making comparisons, sorting and classifying to create an order that is meaningful. They observe and explore changes that vary in their rate and magnitude and begin to describe relationships in the world around them. Students’ questions and ideas about the world become increasingly purposeful. They are encouraged to develop explanatory ideas and test them through further exploration.

**Understandings:**

- Plants are living things.
- Plants can be classified by their features.
- Plants have special features that help them survive in their habitat.
- Plants have predictable life cycles.
- Plants are essential to the food chain.

**Focus Question:**

- What is a plant?

**Contributing questions:**

- How can we tell if something is living?
- What features do plants have?
- What do plants need to survive and grow?
- Why are plants important? How do we use plants?

**Key Concepts:**

- Life cycles
- Interdependence of living things
- Life and living, survival
- Classification
- Change
- Ecosystems

**Cognitive Skills:**

Questioning, sorting, comparing and contrasting, observing, ordering, classifying, predicting, reflecting, sharing ideas, communicating, measuring, researching, reporting.

**Interpersonal and Personal Skills:**

- Team work
- Presenting information
- Communicating
- Negotiating
- Cooperating
- Collaborating