For the “Data…and Math are everywhere” assignment, I plan on firstly introducing the concept of “Data Collection” to my preschool age students by incorporating the calendar learning with the “Leaf Area Index” from My NASA Data Website. The Monthly Leaf Area Index demonstrating the change of leaf coverage on earth gives students a good overview of how plants grow in different month and which life cycle the plants are in among seasons. Understanding the months when the earth is covered by most of plants, then we can extend the topic to our own planting project. In this project, we will start by putting a seed in a soil. Student will start monitoring and collecting the measurement on plants’ growth on weekly basis. To connect the number measurement better with the growth of the plant, students will also take a photo of the plant with a wooden stick as a reference each week. We will print out the photos of the plant and mark the height measurement of the plant on the photo. After one month, students will look at the photos and data collected and compare them to determine the time period when most of the growth happens in the plant life cycle. During this process, we could also draw a chart together to demonstrate the time when most growth happen to the plants and refer back to the Monthly Leaf Area Index from NASA website again. In this project, the Math learning goal for students is to learn and practice number comparison in Common Core CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.K.MD.A.1 . We can use data collected by the students to strengthen their learning in numbers and measurement and encourage students make sensible comparison by using measurable attributes.

This project can also be extended to considering other attributing factors; the weather for instance, if we want to consider challenging students with the questions such as why growth of the plant is more rapid in one period than the other.