It’s Great to Grow UP!

What are the benefits of aeroponic gardening compared to soil gardening?

• Increases crop yield by an average of 30%
  With aeroponic gardening, you can grow more food.

• Plants grow up to three times faster
  That means you can harvest sooner and grow more often.

• Uses as much as 98% less water
  Traditional gardening uses about 80% of our water. That’s a lot of H₂O, which could be a big problem in areas where water is scarce.

• Uses 90% less space than a traditional garden
  Developing less land as farmland is good for our environment. Plus more people will have space for gardening.

• Fewer problems with pollution and pests
  Since aeroponic gardens don’t use soil, you don’t need to worry about pollutants getting into your food from contaminated soil. Plants are also less stressed when grown using aeroponics. That reduces the need for pesticides and herbicides—another earth-friendly benefit.
“It’s Great to Grow UP!”
Mini Poster
How to Use

To introduce the poster, have students stand at their desks. Number the first four students 1, 2, 3, and 4; then ask students 1, 2, and 3 to remain standing and student 4 to sit down. Repeat until you have counted every child and about three-fourths of the students are standing. Explain that more than 3 in every 4 American households participated in do-it-yourself lawn and garden activities, both indoors and out. The standing students represent those Americans.

Next, write the term aeroponic gardening on the board. Explain that aeroponic gardening is the growing of plants by suspending their roots in the air and spraying them with nutrient solutions. With aeroponics, plants typically are planted in a tall, vertical column like Tower Garden® rather than horizontally as in a typical soil garden. Divide the class into pairs and have each twosome spend five minutes brainstorming what they think might be benefits of aeroponic gardening as compared to soil gardening. Provide time for students to share their suggestions. Then use a document camera to project the mini poster onto the board. Review the benefits listed on the poster. Follow up the activity by having each student (or student pair) write a letter to a family member explaining why the class’s Tower Garden system is so beneficial.