

Books and Activities Linked to Gardening

Books: All of these books are available on BorrowBox. YouTube links are included below for Read Aloud books if you don't have access to the physical book in your home.

Oliver's Vegetables

Read Aloud of the story	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BTYoaJY7k-Q
Lesson plan	https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plans/teaching-content/olivers-vegetables-lesson-plan/
Alphabet song about vegetables (American)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ds6tUxatnTs
Big Bird finds out where vegetables comes from	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6P6OxwDwVo
Ellie's Adventures – Where food comes from	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8M8siMgbVkA

The Tiny Seed

Read Aloud of the story	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_A_e6h-DhU
Nice ideas for learners including responding to the book using movement	https://www.funwithmama.com/the-tiny-seed/
<i>A Little Seed</i> – lovely animated spring poem	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Znej44BR8I
Mother Goose Club – The Planting Song	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a44NFSiIn54

Jack and the Beanstalk

Read Aloud of the story	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zurz-pL-uzw
Activity	Play charades based on the actions in the story e.g Mammy mimes planting the seeds – child guesses the action
Activity	Make the voices/sounds the character makes and guess the character by verbalising the character name or pointing to the character on a screen or in a book e.g. 'Oh Jack, get down from that beanstalk' Who am I?
Activity	The Giant is also in the story, <i>Mr. Greedy</i> so you could link to the two stories and compare them.
Mr. Greedy Cartoon – faithful to the book	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qr31goa3U54

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Cartoon of the Story	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75NQG-Sm1YY
Read Aloud of the story	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btFCtMhF3il
Real life footage of a caterpillar turning into a hawk moth	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWOOb8k0kbX
Sesame Street – Bert sings about insects	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50Vm1Ssx2jY

Activities: If you are in a Lidl or Aldi, pick up a few copies of their free in-store magazine and you can cut the pictures out to use for these activities if you don't have a printer to print the cards included.

1. Sort the food cards/shopping list cards/pictures by colour; size; fruit/vegetables; likes/dislikes
2. Sort the food cards/shopping list cards/pictures by initial or end sounds or letters e.g. what begins with P?
3. Create your own family shopping list for your next supermarket trip – encourage your child (if physically able) to unpack the bags and check the list against it. Your child can write the list; use the cards if you have a printer/point to the cards on a screen/pick out the cut out pictures and you write for them.
4. Alternatively, verbally, hold up each vegetable/fruit and ask 'Was this on the list?'
5. Match the common fruit/vegetables e.g. put all the apples in a basket; put all the green vegetables together etc.
6. If you have vegetables or fruit that are past their best, if you have paint, paint them and make prints of the fruit or vegetable. Dip the pieces or whole fruits in paint and press them onto paper. Can you make your own 'crazy' fruits or vegetables e.g. a red orange; a blue banana etc. You can ask lots of questions like 'Where would a blue banana grow? What would the planet look like? Who would eat them? Would you eat them? What would they taste like?' Of course if your child is non-verbal this may not apply or you may use yes no questions that they can answer if they use technology or speech assisted items.
7. Encourage children to describe what the vegetable or fruit tastes or feels like? Hard, soft, squishy, rough etc.
8. Plant seeds from apples; tomatoes; oranges etc. They may not grow as well as seeds from a garden centre but some will be successful
9. If you are lucky enough to live near a wooded area that you can access, there will be seeds and seed casings left on the ground. This is called mast. Pick up some of these and use google or a plant finder app like *Leaffinder* or *Plantsnap* to identify them.
10. If you are lucky enough to have a garden, planting seeds with children is a fantastic activity for them. Giving them their own area to dig or scrape is a great way to get them out in the fresh air. You can reuse milk cartons and egg boxes and toilet roll cardboard inserts to plant in. Any soil will do – it doesn't have to be compost. You may be able to collect soil on your 2km walk.
11. If you have any dried pulses in your house like peas or chickpeas these will sprout if you soak them overnight, then keep them on wet cotton wool or kitchen paper or toilet paper on a plate and put them on a sunny windowsill. Children will get to see them grow and eat them.