



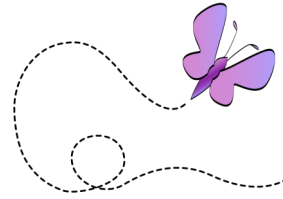
Vol. 22 No. 8

Opening the Gift



What's In My Garden?

April 2019



Sunflower by Miela Ford
 Little Green by Keith Baker
 Dig In! by Cindy Jenson-Elliott
 Underground by Denise Fleming
 Ten Little Caterpillars by Bill Martin Jr
 Lola Plants a Garden by Anna McQuinn
 Up, Down and Around by Katherine Ayres
 Wake Up, It's Spring! by Lisa Campbell Ernst
 In My Garden: A Counting Book by Ward Schumaker

Nursery Rhyme: Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary

Songs & Fingerplays to Share



CD: "Silly Dance Contest" from *Jim Gill Sings the Sneezing Song and Other Contagious Tunes*

My Garden

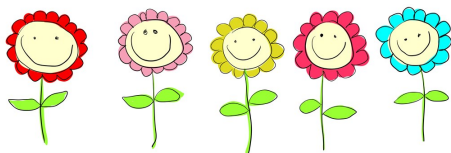
This is my garden
(one hand out, palm up)
 I'll rake it with care
(rake palms with fingers)
 And then some flower seeds
(sprinkle seeds)
 I'll plant in there.
(pat palm with fingers)
 The sun will shine,
(circle arms overhead)
 And the rain will fall,
(wiggle fingers downward)
 And my garden will blossom,
(make fists, open fingers slowly)
 Growing straight and tall.
(reach hands high overhead)



Wiggly Warbling (tune: Jingle Bells)

Wiggle worm
 Wiggle worm
 Wiggle your way down
(wiggle to the floor)
 In the soil deep and dark
(continue wiggling)
 You wiggle underground.
 Wiggle worm,
 Wiggle worm,
 Wiggle your way up.
(wiggle up to a standing position)
 To the surface, you must go.
(continue wiggling)
 It's raining way too much!

The Mailbox, Preschool Edition Apr/May 2012



Little Seed

Little seed in the ground
(crouch down on the floor, hands covering head)
 Sitting so still.
(stay crouching)
 Little seed, will you sprout?
 Yes, I will!
(jump up)

Springtime Magic

A little seed
 For me to sow...
 A little earth
 To make it grow...
 A little hole,
 A little pat...
 A little wish,
 And that is that.
 A little sun,
 A little shower...
 A little while,
 And then a flower!
poetry by Mabel Watts

Your next visit will be: May _____
Next month's theme will be: "Out Of This World!"



More Books to Share:

Sunflower House by Eve Bunting

A Peaceful Garden by Lucy London

I Help In the Garden by Elise Collier

Isabella's Garden by Glenda Millard

My Busy Green Garden by Terry Pierce

Plant a Little Seed by Bonnie Christensen

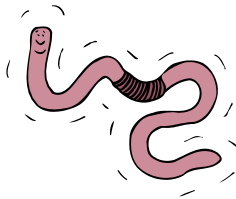
Up In the Garden and Down In the Dirt by Kate Messner

In the Garden: Who's Been Here? by Lindsay Barrett George

Plant, Cook, Eat! A Children's Cookbook by Joe Archer & Caroline Craig



Activity Ideas:



Light and Dark: Explain that a worm moves across the floor by using its muscles to stretch out long and thin, to reach as far as possible. Then it bunches up, short and fat. Have students practice wiggling like worms. Then tell them that worms like the dark. Turn off the light and prompt students to wiggle like worms. Then turn on the lights and prompt your little worms to freeze. Continue this game for several rounds.

The Mailbox, Preschool Edition Apr/May 2012

Swirling Seeds: This unique discovery bottle has a seed-themed twist! Place basil seeds in an empty plastic bottle. Then fill the bottle with water and tape or hot glue the lid in place. Put the bottle in a sunny window. During center time, encourage students to shake and swirl the bottle, watching the seeds move. Then have them return the bottle to the window. After several days, the seeds will begin to sprout!

Packet Match: Gather pairs of empty seed packets. Laminate the packets and place them in a center. A youngster spreads all the packets out so they are faceup. Then, he matches the pairs of packets.

The Mailbox, Preschool Edition Apr/May 2009

Book of the Month:



The Redleaf Family Child Care Curriculum : Teaching Through Quality Care by Sharon Woodward

PTC 362.712 W

This leading resource is a specifically designed curriculum for family child-care providers. They will be able to incorporate best practices and activities appropriate for the mixed ages of children in their care. Developmental domains and milestones, learning areas, age-appropriate activities and outcomes, and more are included. It is far more affordable than other family child care curriculum alternatives, and it aligns with Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) requirements around the country. Enrich your program and support children's early learning with best practices and activities designed specifically for family child care professionals.



Road to Reading Tip:

The experts at *EarlyChildhood NEWS* point out six skills that dramatic play improves in preschoolers:

- Role playing—Learning to think beyond oneself; learning to observe others
- Handling props—Increasing fine and gross motor skills
- Imagination—To enrich their imagined world, children imitate adult actions and language use
- Attention span—Sustaining a dramatic role, with its rich inner monologue, helps children increase their ability to focus on text
- Social skills—Many children narrate and exchange dialogue with other preschoolers
- Communication—Dramatic play promotes speaking and listening skills

www.kids-konnect.com

HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY has a variety of Little Leaper Kits perfect for dramatic play! Children can take on the role of a Nurse, Veterinarian, Bird Watcher, Meteorologist, Architect, Astronaut, Botanist, Entomologist, Mechanical Engineer, Chemist, or Paleontologist while having fun learning about science and math. Check one out soon!



**Harford County
Public Library**

Questions or Suggestions? Call Melinda Chase, Bel Air Branch, 410-638-3151, ext. 6351
If you have an urgent message for me, please speak with the operator, 410-638-4800 (starting at 8am)
or call the Opening the Gift cell phone, 443-608-9881
email: chase@hcplonline.org

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