

Opening the Gift

I Dig Gardens

April 2016

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

***Jo MacDonald Had a Garden* by Mary Quattlebaum**

***Zinnia's Flower Garden* by Monica Wellington**

***Planting Seeds* by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace**

***Up, Down, and Around* by Katherine Ayres**

***Feeding Friendsies* by Susanne Bloom**

***Planting a Rainbow* by Lois Ehlert**

***I Have a Garden* by Bob Barner**

***Underground* by Denise Fleming**

***Bee Dance* by Rick Chrustowski**

***Dig In!* by Cindy Jenson-Elliot**

Nursery Rhyme: Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary Songs & Fingerplays to Share

CD: "In My Garden" from *One Light, One Sun* by Raffi

Five Little Flowers

Five little flowers growing in a row

(hold up five fingers, gesture to row)

The first one said, "We need rain to grow."

(hold up 1 finger, imitate rain falling)

The second one said, "Yes, we need water!"

(hold up 2 fingers, nod head)

The third one said, "Whew, it's getting hotter!"

(hold up 3 fingers, wipe brow)

The fourth one said, "Look, there are clouds in the sky."

(4 fingers, point to sky)

The fifth one said, "I wonder why?"

(5 fingers, hold palms out questioningly)

Then "BOOM" went the thunder!

(clap hands together loudly)

And "ZAP" went the lightening!

(draw zig-zag in air)

That springtime storm was kind of frightening!

(shiver)

But were the flowers scared? No, no, no.

(shake head)

They knew they needed rain to grow, grow, grow.

(hold hand above ground & raise)

Wiggle Worm

(tune: Did You Ever See a Lassie?)

Did you ever see a wiggle worm,

A wiggle worm, a wiggle worm?

Did you ever see a wiggle worm

Move this way and that?

Move this way and that way,

Move this way and that way.

Did you ever see a wiggle worm

Move this way and that?

stephysetpcc.com



Little Seed

Little seed in the ground

(crouch down, hands covering head)

Sitting so still.

Little seed, will you sprout?

YES, I will!

(jump up)

Mud Mix

Mix the mud.

(make stirring motion)

Squish the mud.

(make squishing motion with fingers)

Squash it with your feet.

(stand on balls of feet and twist)

Squishy, squashy, squooshy mud.

(pretend to make a mud pie)

Mud is really neat!

(hold up hands, palms out)

I'll Plant a Little Seed

(tune: I'm a Little Teapot)

I'll plant a little seed

in the dark, dark, ground.

Out comes the yellow sun,

big and round.

Down comes the cool rain,

soft and slow.

Up comes the little seed,

grow, grow, GROW!

Your next visit will be: May _____

Next month's theme will be: "Good Sports"





More Books to Share:

Zora's Zucchini by Katherine Pryor
Isabella's Garden by Glenda Millard
Our Community Garden by Barbara Pollak
This Is the Sunflower by Lola M. Schaefer
Plant a Little Seed by Bonnie Christensen
Lola Paints a Garden by Anna McQuinn
Vegetable Garden by Douglas Florian
Yucky Worms by Vivian French

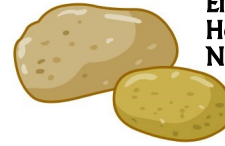


Activity Ideas:

Packet Match: Gather pairs of empty seed packets (dollar stores are an inexpensive source). Laminate the packets and place them in a center. A child spreads the packets out so they are face up. Then he matches the pairs of packets. *The Mailbox Magazine, Preschool edition April/May 2009*

Potato Hop: Cut ten large potato shapes from brown construction paper and number them from 1 to 10. Tape the shapes to the floor in order from number 1 to 10. Let the children take turns hopping from one potato to the next as everyone chants the rhyme. *atozkidstuff.com*

One potato, two potato,
 Three potato, four,
 Five potato, six potato,
 Seven potato, more,
 Eight potato, nine potato,
 Here is ten.
 Now let's start all over again.



Book of the Month:

Gardening Lab for Kids: 52 Fun Experiments to Learn, Grow, Harvest, Make, Play, and Enjoy Your Garden
 by Renata Fossen Brown PTC 635.083 B

A refreshing source of ideas to help your children learn to grow their own patch of earth, *Gardening Lab for Kids* encourages children to get outside and enjoy nature. This fun and creative book features 52 plant-related activities set into weekly lessons, beginning with learning to read maps to find your heat zone, moving through seeds, soil, composting, and then creating garden art and appreciating your natural surroundings. Author Renata Fossen Brown guides your family through fun opportunities learning about botany, ecology, the seasons, food, patience, insects, eating, and cooking. *Gardening Lab for Kids* is the perfect book for creative families, friends, and community groups and works as lesson plans for both experienced and new gardeners. Children of all ages and experience levels can be guided by adults and will enjoy these engaging exercises. So, slip on your muddy clothes, and get out and grow!



Road to Reading Tip:

The Power of Play: Play is one of the primary ways young children learn about how the world works, and learn language.

- Play helps children practice putting their thoughts into words.
- Play helps children think symbolically — that this item stands for this thing ("This box is a rocket ship!"), which helps them understand that words can stand for real objects or experiences.
- Play is how children practice becoming adults and process what they see and hear everyday.

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Questions or Suggestions? Call Melinda Chase, Bel Air Branch, 410-638-3151, ext. 2279
 If you have an urgent message for me, please speak with the operator, 410-638-4800 (starting at 8 am)
 email: chase@hcplonline.org

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