

# Opening the Gift

## Digging Up Dirt



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*The Surprise Garden* by Zoe Hall

*Planting a Rainbow* by Lois Ehlert

*Vegetable Garden* by Douglas Florian

*A Green, Green Garden* by Mercer Mayer

*Up, Down, and Around* by Katherine Ayres

*Who Is In The Garden?* by Vera Rosenberry

*Wake Up, It's Spring!* by Lisa Campbell Ernst

CD: *"Walter the Waltzing Worm"* by Hap Palmer

*In My Garden: A Counting Book* by Ward Schumaker

*Compost Stew: An A to Z Recipe for the Earth* by Mary McKenna Siddals

### Nursery Rhyme: Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary



#### 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)  
*preschooleducation.com*

#### Little Seed

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

### Songs & Fingerplays to Share:

#### Five Little Seeds

Five little seeds buried in the ground;  
The first one said,  
"When's the sun coming round?"  
The second one said,  
"I really need a drink!"  
The third one said,  
"I feel some rain, I think!"  
The fourth one said,  
"I'm so cozy in my bed."  
The fifth one said,  
"Wake up, you sleepyhead!"  
The rain came down and the sun came out,  
And those five little seeds -  
They started to sprout!

*The Mailbox, Preschool Edition Apr/May 2009*



#### 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*

Your next visit will be: May \_\_\_\_\_

Next month's theme will be: "Dive In!"





## More Books to Share:

*Ten Seeds* by Ruth Brown

*Yucky Worms* by Vivian French

*Tiny Green Thumbs* by C.Z. Guest

*Isabella's Garden* by Glenda Millard

*Wiggle and Waggle* by Caroline Arnold

*An Earthworm's Life* by John Himmelman

*Good Morning Garden* by Barbara Brenner

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

*Measuring in the Garden—a Math Around Us* book by Tracey Steffora



## Activity Ideas:

**Light and Dark:** Explain that a worm moves across the floor by using its muscles to stretch out long and thin, reaching 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 the packets out so they are faceup. Then he matches the pairs of packets.

*The Mailbox, Preschool Edition Apr/May*



## Book of the Month:

*Bubbles, Rainbows & Worms: Science Experiments For Preschool Children* by Sam Ed Brown  
PTC J 372.35 B

"Children learn by doing; they have a powerful desire to explore, question, and manipulate. The experiments in *Bubbles, Rainbows & Worms* satisfy this curiosity while introducing children to the fascinating world of science. With age-appropriate activities and up-to-date science information, this book contains easy experiments with plants, the environment, air, water, and the senses."



## Road to Reading Tip:

Your young child is able to understand more complicated language. Your preschooler's vocabulary expands rapidly, supporting her ability to talk about a wide-range of topics, from dinosaurs to doll houses to dark clouds in the sky. Your young child is also able to understand longer and more complex sentences, such as a set of directions. For example, young children are able to understand a parent or caregiver's request to "Put the puzzle away, find your coat, and meet me at the door."

*pbs.org*

**QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS?!** Call Melinda Chase, Bel Air Branch, at 410 638-3151, ext. **2279**. e-mail: [chase@hcplonline.org](mailto:chase@hcplonline.org)  
If you have an urgent message for me, please speak with the operator at 410-638-4800 (beginning at 8 AM)



Mary, Mary, quite contrary,  
How does your garden grow?  
With silver bells and cockleshells,  
And pretty maids all in a row.