

Grandpa's Garden

A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

Themes: Family, Gardening, Ecosystems, Seasons

Grade Level: 2nd to 3rd grade

Book Brief: All year long, Billy and his grandpa work on preparing the soil, planting seeds, and taking care of the plants in Grandpa's garden.

Author:

Stella Fry

Illustrator:

Sheila Moxley



TIME TO READ!

Before reading: Ask if any children have gardens at home or have gardened before. Talk about what usually grows in a garden. What does it take to have a successful garden? What kind of care do plants need to be healthy?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

CONTAINER GARDENS (AGES 7-9)

Materials: large plastic pots, potting soil, vegetable seeds

Use large pots to create a container garden for your center! Split children into small groups. Have each group be responsible for planting one type of vegetable. Children should fill the containers with potting soil, make small holes for seeds, then plant the seeds and gently cover with soil. Water the seeds. Label the pot with the group name and type of vegetable. Place the containers in a sunny spot and have children continue to care for them. Observe and discuss your garden's growth.

POTATO PRINTS (AGES 7-9)

Materials: potatoes, plastic knives, paper plate, paint, paper

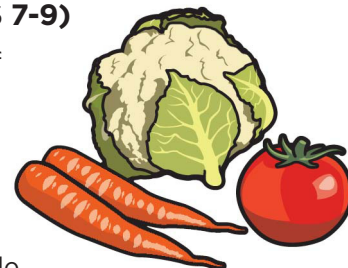
Give each child half a potato. Have them carve a design onto the smooth end of the potato half using a plastic knife. (Younger children may need help.)

Cut away some of the outer edges of the potato so the design will show up. Dip the potato in paint and stamp it onto paper to make a potato print design. Let children swap potato stamps to add to their pictures.

VEGGIE BUFFET (AGES 7-9)

Ingredients: your choice of vegetables that can be eaten raw, ranch dressing or dip (optional)

Split children into small groups. Give each group a vegetable to be responsible for. Have them identify whether their vegetable is part of the root, stem, flower, fruit, or leaves of the plant. Have them wash, peel (if needed), and tear the vegetable into bite-sized pieces. Let everyone try at least one piece of each vegetable. Which kind of vegetable did the kids like best—seeds, roots, leaves, or stem?



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT GARDENING

Talia and the Rude Vegetables, Linda Elovitz Marshall (2011), *Tops and Bottoms*, Janet Stevens (1995), *The Vegetables We Eat*, Gail Gibbons (2008).

TECHNOLOGY LINK FOR KIDS

www.rif.org/kids



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