

# Farm to Table

Play-based learning is a developmentally appropriate best-practice for young children. Through the unit From **Farm to Table**, students learn about various food sources and the people who help get food to our tables. From understanding where food comes from to exploring the different types of farms, this guide shows an array of ways children can have fun learning about farming right in their own backyard while enhancing their literacy skills. Follow these suggestions to create farm-themed centers in your early childhood classroom.

## FARMERS MARKET DRAMATIC PLAY CENTER

Dramatic play inspires imagination, develops speaking and listening skills, fosters social skills such as sharing and turn taking, and supports children to acquire new vocabulary. A dramatic play center should include a theme, props, and adult guidance to enhance language development. Also include environmental print such as signs, labels, and authentic writing opportunities.

### SUGGESTED PROPS

- Market stand
- Cash register
- Fruit and vegetables
- Gardening set
- Gardening gloves
- Gardening hat

### RIF PRINTABLES

- RIF Farmer's Market banner
- Plant lifecycle poster
- Is it a Fruit? poster
- Is is a Vegetable? poster



**ADULT GUIDANCE:** Use these suggested leveled questions and narrations to support children's play.

- **Level 1:** "Where is the carrot? Point to it."
- **Level 2:** "Is this a seed or a plant?"
- **Level 3:** "What season is this (crop) in?"
- **Level 4:** "Why do you think the most crops are in the summer?"
- "The market is getting busy! Everyone is finding fresh and healthy foods."
- "Great job giving change and saying thank you! Such friendly customer service."

## WRITING CENTER

Young children benefit from exposure to different styles and purposes for writing. At your writing center include different types of paper and writing materials, a sound-spelling chart, and vocabulary cards. Help children see that writing has different purposes by providing examples of different types of writing such as friendly letters, storybooks, party invitations, and more.

### RIF PRINTABLES

- Farm to table border sheet (with and without lines)
- Seeds alphabet tracing



“Don’t forget the eggs!” It is helpful to make a list before going shopping to make sure you get everything you need. As a class, discuss what you can buy at a farmer’s market and create your own shopping list. Have students practice writing their own list using RIF’s Sound-Spelling Chart and Picture Vocabulary Cards.

## NURSERY RHYME CENTER

Singing nursery rhymes helps children develop phonological awareness which is important for developing phonics. Set up a center for children to sing their favorite nursery rhymes. Include the nursery rhyme, hand-made or printed displays, and puppets or props related to the nursery rhyme.

### RIF PRINTABLES

- “Old McDonald had a Farm” nursery rhyme
- “Old McDonald had a Farm” puppets

