BOOK #6
THE SURPRISE GARDEN
by
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Materials
Vocabulary Word Cards
Stages of Growth
No Purchased Materials
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Preparation
- Become familiar with the book by reading it.
- Review the story questions.
- Review the Vocabulary Word Cards – garden, plants, seeds, grow, soil, water, sprout.
- Read the Steps to Success session cards.
- You will need Vocabulary Word Cards.

Introduction of Book
- Introduce the concept of plants by telling children that plants are living things and that they begin with seeds and turn into plants that grow in gardens. Show the children the cover of the book and ask them to identify what is pictured on the front cover.
- Identify the title of the book, the author of the book and the illustrator.
- As you point to the title of the book, tell the children that the letters they see make up words.

Reading Aloud
- Tell the children that you will be reading a story about growing vegetables and fruits in a garden.
- Introduce the Vocabulary Word Cards – garden, plants, seeds, grow, soil, water, sprout.
- Match the Vocabulary Word Cards to the pictures as you go through the book. Give a child-friendly definition for each word.
- Read pages 1 through 9 to the children. Talk about how seeds are planted in the soil. Point to the different sizes and shapes of the seeds, point to the “marking” sticks, and summarize how the plants are watered and how the sun warms them.
- **While reading the book**, ask the following questions:
  - After reading page 7, ask the children to guess what kinds of vegetables and fruit will grow in the garden.
  - Are all of the seeds the same size and color? (no)
  - What do seeds need to grow? (water and light)
- Continue reading on the page where the plants are growing and the peas, beans and squash are seen. Read the remainder of the book.

After Reading
- Show the children the Vocabulary Word Cards while summarizing how the seeds were planted in the soil, then watered and began to sprout and grow into vegetables in the garden.
- **After reading the book**, ask the following questions:
  - What are some of the plants that grew in the garden? (peas, beans, squash, spinach, lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, radishes, watermelon)
  - What was the largest plant in the garden? (watermelon)
  - What was the tallest plant in the garden? (sunflower)
  - What did the children make after they picked the vegetables? (salad)
Conversations and Vocabulary Development

Activity 1    Tell the children you are going to show them a Vocabulary Word Card and ask them to describe the word on the card (garden, plants, seeds, grow, soil, water, sprout). Continue until all children have had a chance to describe one of the words.

Activity 2    Sing the I'm a Little Seed song with the children.

I'm a Little Seed
I'm a little seed, brown and fat,
I don't have a front, and I don't have a back.
Plant me in the earth, and give me water,
I'll grow into a vegetable and that's a fact.

Conversations and Language Enhancement

Activity 1    Tell the children that they are going to pretend to make a vegetable salad. Ask them to tell you the types of vegetables they would like to have in their salad. Help the children respond in full sentences.

Activity 2    Sing the Vegetable Garden song with the children.

Vegetable Garden
(Tune: Farmer in the Dell)
The farmer plants the seeds, the farmer plants the seeds.
Hi, Ho, and Cherry O,
The farmer plants the seeds.

The sun begins to shine, the sun begins to shine,
Hi, Ho and Cherry O,
The sun begins to shine.

The rain begins to fall, the rain begins to fall.
Hi, ho, and Cherry O,
The rain begins to fall.

The plants begin to grow, the plants begin to grow,
Hi, ho, and Cherry O,
The plants begin to grow.

Activity 3    Ask the children to name and describe as many different vegetables as they can. Encourage them to use descriptive words to describe the plants. Ask them to describe how the vegetables taste.
**Preparation**
- Become familiar with the book by reading it.
- Review the story questions.
- Review the Vocabulary Word Cards – *garden, plants, seeds, grow, soil, water, sprout*.
- Read the Steps to Success session cards.
- You will need Vocabulary Word Cards, *Stages of Growth* cards.

**Introduction**
- Show the children the cover of the book and ask them to describe what they see. Show them the back of the book and ask them to describe what they see.
- Review the title of the book, the author of the book and the illustrator.
- Show the children the cover of the book and ask them to read you the title of the book.

**Reading Aloud**
- Ask the children what they think the book will be about. Display the Vocabulary Word Cards and ask the children to read each of the words.
- Read the book.
- **While reading the book**, ask the following questions:
  - What are the children doing with the shovels? (planting seeds)
  - Why are the children putting water on the garden? (helps seeds grow)
  - Some plants grow under ground. What is the oblong orange plant that grows under ground? (carrot)

**After Reading**
- **After reading the book**, ask the following questions:
  - What did the children do when the vegetables were grown? (picked them)
  - Have you ever eaten Vegetable soup? Tell us what vegetables were in the soup.

**Conversations and Vocabulary Development**

**Activity 1** Sing the *Vegetables Are Good For Me* song with the children.

*Vegetables Are Good For Me*

Carrots, celery and broccoli,
Vegetables are good for me.
Beans, potatoes, and peas,
Vegetables are good for me.
They keep you healthy,
And are yummy too!
Activity 2  Play the *I Am Thinking* game with the children.

**Clues:**
- *I Am Thinking* of something that is big, heavy, round and green. What is it? (watermelon)
- I have a garden, and the vegetables are ready to be picked. What are some of the vegetables that I might pick?
- *I Am Thinking* of a vegetable that is leafy and green, and we like to put it in our salads. What is it? (lettuce)

**Conversations and Language Enhancement**

**Activity 1**  Talk with the children about the *Stages of Growth* cards:

- **Stage One**  Seed is Planted in Soil
- **Stage Two**  Seed is Watered
- **Stage Three**  Sun Shines on Plant
- **Stage Four**  Flower Grows

Give the children the *Stages of Growth* cards and ask them to put them in the correct order. Ask the children to describe each of the stages using complete sentences.

**Activity 2**  Ask the children to name as many different flowers as they know (daisy, daffodil, carnation, orchid, lily, petunia, tulip, rose). Ask them to tell what colors the flowers are. Ask them to tell you how flowers are used.

**Activity 3**  Give each child a topic and ask him/her to make up sentences describing the topic. If the child has difficulty, prompt by giving clues or say a sentence and ask the child to repeat the sentence.

**Story Starter 1**  I am thinking about planting a garden. What do plants need to grow?

**Story Starter 2**  The story talked about how the children picked the vegetables. What were some of the vegetables that they picked?

**Story Starter 3**  The boy in the story was very surprised when he saw the tallest plant in the garden. What was the plant and what did it look like?