

What's Growing in My Garden?

Presenter Tip Sheet

About This Storytime

Twos and threes are at the perfect age to help plant seeds for flowers or vegetables. Children this age may be impatient waiting to see something grow, but it is a rewarding activity for a parent to experience with a child. This storytime will cover planting seeds, the care needed for plants, and the wonder of watching them grow.

Books

For books to share in this storytime, pick three from the list below, or choose other books in your collection that reflect the theme and are developmentally appropriate for twos and threes. Always share your longest book first. For the second book, choose a participatory book that engages the children, and ask the caregivers to join in. For the third and last story, share a book told through the use of a flannel board or magnetic board, or use a prop or other visual. The examples provided in the storytime program fit these guidelines.

Book Suggestions:

- *Big Yellow Sunflower*, by Frances Barry (Candlewick, 2008)
- *The Carrot Seed*, by Ruth Krauss (HarperCollins, 2004)
- *The Enormous Turnip*, by Kathy Parkinson (Albert Whitman, 1987)
- *A Garden of Opposites*, by Nancy Davis (Schwartz & Wade, 2009)
- *Go, Go, Grapes!* by April Pulley Sayre (Beach Lane, 2012)
- *Growing Vegetable Soup*, by Lois Ehlert (HMH, 1997)
- *How Does a Seed Grow?* by Sue Kim (Little Simon, 2010)
- *Maisy Grows a Garden*, by Lucy Cousins (Candlewick, 2013)
- *Planting a Rainbow*, by Lois Ehlert (HMH, 1992)
- *Rah, Rah, Radishes!* by April Pulley Sayre (Beach Lane, 2011)
- *Ten Hungry Rabbits*, by Anita Lobel (Knopf, 2012)
- *Up, Down, and Around*, by Katharine Ayres (Candlewick, 2008)
- *Who's in the Garden?* by Phillis Gershtator (Barefoot, 2010)

Songs

This storytime includes four songs. The same opening song should be used each week if you are holding a series of storytime programs. Always provide some type of movement or motions to accompany each song, but keep the movements simple. If you use a song that normally has many verses, consider limiting it to two or three verses. Using recorded music during the storytime is fine, but try to sing as many songs as you can with a live voice so that young children can hear the words and the sounds making up each word. Recorded music is usually sung too fast for this purpose. The Very Ready Reading Program includes CDs with all the songs in the storytimes, recorded at an appropriate tempo for this age group. Track numbers for each recording are provided in the song list below and on the storytime program card.

Songs for This Storytime:

- Opening Song: "It's Time for Storytime" (sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell") 🎧 2.03 🎵 2.04
- "The Seeds Grow" (sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell") 🎧 2.18
- "My Busy Garden" (sung to the tune "She'll Be Coming 'Round the Mountain") 🎧 2.11
- "This Is the Way" (sung to the tune of "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush") 🎧 2.22

Rhymes

This storytime includes four rhymes. The same closing rhyme should be used each week if you are holding a series of storytime programs. The rhymes used in these storytimes have motions that are appropriate for twos and threes, who still have some limited fine motor skills. Younger children may need caregivers' help with the motions in these rhymes.

Rhymes for This Storytime:

- "Tiny Seeds"
- "Slowly, Slowly"
- "Five Little Peas"
- Closing Rhyme: "Wave Goodbye"

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Activities

This storytime includes an optional theme-related activity, to be completed after the closing rhyme. Below are three activities to choose from. The activity you choose might depend on the size or predominant age of your audience, the amount of time you have to prepare, your space or environment, and the materials needed. The activities are designed with safety and the attention spans and fine motor abilities of twos and threes in mind. Always remember and remind caregivers: **Any activity that involves materials such as paint, sand, string, or small pieces requires close adult supervision.** Although each activity has a learning aspect, the emphasis should be on having fun!

Activity Suggestions:

Harry. Give each child a cup to draw a face on with adult help. Provide potting soil and rye grass seed. Have parents help children scoop soil into their cups and then plant the rye grass seed about ¼ inch under the soil. When the grass grows in a few days, Harry will have a head of hair!

Sponge Paint Flowers. Provide sponges cut into daisy and tulip shapes. Attach a clothespin to the center of each sponge. Have children dip their sponges in tempera paint and then onto a piece of construction paper to create flowers. Provide crayons for children to draw stems and leaves.

A Garden of Children. Provide each child with a paper plate with the center removed. Download the petal template from www.upstartpromotions.com/upstart/pages/reproducibles, and have adults use the template to trace and cut out eight petals. Encourage parents to help their children glue the petals around the edges of their plates. Have parents cut a stem from green crepe paper or construction paper and leaves from green construction paper to add to the flower. You can suggest parents cut the stem to represent the height of their children. Children can glue leaves to the backside of the plate so they stick out from behind the petals. Children can put their faces behind the plates to form the center of the flowers.



Early Literacy Tips

Throughout each storytime program, you'll find yellow boxes that feature early literacy tips. As you present your program, share these tips with parents and caregivers to help promote the **7 Days • 7 Ways** principles. The tips are designed to easily be infused into the storytime without interrupting the natural flow of the program for children. The Caregiver Tip Sheets you will hand out at the end of each program reiterate the literacy tips you shared during the storytime.