

Planting Seeds

by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace

With paper cutouts, this board book not only helps children count to ten, but also gives them a step-by-step description on how to grow plants and vegetables.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *What does a seed need to grow?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder how many carrots will grow?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *Planting Seeds*

- sprouts: to develop buds or shoots
- weeds: an unwanted wild plant
- greet: to welcome somebody or something

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What was the first thing bunny did before he planted the seeds?
- How many bunnies planted the seeds?
- What did the bunnies do to the sprouts once they were planted?
- Why did the four bunnies pull up the weeds?
- What happened once it started to rain? Why were the bunnies happy?
- How many bunnies greeted the sun?
- What did the bunnies do with the baskets?
- What did the bunnies do with all the carrots? How many total bunnies were there?

Do

Show Me...

You will need: baby carrots (enough for each child to have 5), paper plates, ranch dressing (optional) and number flash cards; 0-5

After reading the story, hand each child a paper plate and carrots. Have each child count the number of carrots he/she has. Hold up a number card and read the number aloud. Tell the children "show me ____ carrots." Each child should hold up the right amount of carrots. Repeat the steps several times until all the numbers have been represented. If desired, increase the number of carrots to 10 and repeat the same steps. Once the activity is over, give the children ranch dressing and allow them enough time to eat the carrots.