

Growing Vegetable Soup

by Lois Ehlert

A book to help nourish healthy readers while providing a healthy dose of information on growing and nurturing living things.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Who can tell me all the different kinds of vegetables you can use in soup?* 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 if any of you have ever grown tomatoes?

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 *Growing Vegetable Soup*

- tool: an object designed to do a specific kind of work
- seed: a part of a plant that is used for reproduction
- sprouts: to grow from a seed
- trowel: a small hand tool with a short handle and a flat pointed blade
- zucchini: a small summer squash that is shaped like a cucumber
- squash: the fruit of any plant of the gourd family, cooked and eaten as a vegetable
- bushel basket: a basket used for measuring dry goods
- pail: bucket
- pot: a container made of metal for cooking
- ladle: a spoon with a long handle used to serve soup

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- How many of you have ever helped plant a garden? With who?
- What type of garden? What did you plant?
- What tools did you use? Did you use seeds?
- What does a garden need in order to grow? Water? Sun?
- Have you ever made vegetable soup from your garden? What vegetables did you use?
- How many of you like vegetable soup? What do you eat with your soup? Crackers? Crackers with butter? Crackers with peanut butter?

Do

Prepare and Make Your Own Vegetable Soup

Use the recipe provided on the back page of the book to make your own vegetable soup.

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