

LEARNING TIME

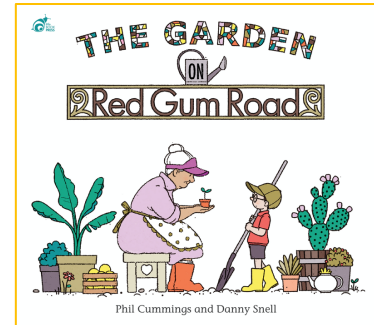
The Garden on Red Gum Road

By Phil Cummings and Danny Snell

Themes: Family, Community, Diversity, Environment

Rare and interesting words: Community garden, Nonna, spade, rake, patch, seeds, watering, collecting, picking, picnic.

Action words(verbs): water, collect, pick, sleep, prance, whirl, twirl, creep, spread.



Key Message for Parents | Children's learn through being engaged and doing.

Children learn best when they have exposure to rich language, hands on experiences and the chance of repeat activities.

Play is critical to young children's social, emotional, and intellectual development.

Provide opportunities to explore in non-structured ways as often as possible to allow children to lead the play.

Play provides for language rich conversation and diverse problem solving, collaboration and imaginative skills.

Australian Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 2: Children are connected with, and contribute to their world

Educators can support children's learning by

- Sharing information about the natural environment utilising library collections whereby children can learn about plant types and how to grow plants
- Providing multi-sensory child led play-based experiences
- Scaffolding concepts by explaining new words
- Provide outdoor experiences to explore their natural environment
- Explain new vocabulary and reinforce learning with hands on experiences
- Read a range of resources on growing, and sourcing foods.

Welcome

Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their children.

Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

Welcome Song (or your preferred song)

Have the words available as a handout or written on a board or butcher's paper for the adults to read and join in.

Good Morning

Good morning to you

Good morning to you

Good morning everybody

and welcome to you!



You may like to introduce the book at this stage, or use a song to help prepare your group and introduce the upcoming story and activities.

Song

Everybody do this

Create your own words to make the book in this very popular and well-known song.

Everybody do this, do this, do this

Everybody do this just like me!

Everybody stomping, stomping, stomping (big steps or high step walking or stomp your feet)

Everybody stomping - just like me!

Everybody digging, digging, digging (make a digging action with hand)

Everybody digging – just like me!

Everybody planting, planting, planting (make hands in cup shape and gesture up and down)

Everybody looking – just like me!

Everybody watering, watering, watering (gesture holding a hose or watering can and watering)

Everybody watering– just like me!

Before Reading

- Greet families and children warmly, ask them how they are, awaiting their responses and acknowledging them.
- Explain the format of the session, including the book you are reading, songs and activities. You may want to use a visual board to support diverse language and learning needs.
- Ask the children to sit where they can see the pictures, as you will need them to watch closely!

During Reading

- Introduce the name of the book, author and illustrator.
- Have a look at the endpapers and discuss what the children think may happen in the book. Point out illustrations of plants and tools.
- Explain the concept of a community garden; a place where people can work together to grow food.
- Be intrigued and model engagement with the text, through looking interested in what they discover and check the children are following along. You can ask – *what are they doing? What is does a plant need to grow? Have you ever grown a plant? What food comes from this plant?*
- This book allows opportunities for the audience to identify familiar plants and foods.

After Reading

- Reflect on the outcome of the story, would they like to grow plants too?
- Can the participants remember any vegetables in the garden?
- Discuss sun protection and playing outside safely (eg: having an adult close by).
- Talk about how growing something takes time, and discuss other things needed to grow a plant. Participants might list sun, water, soil, compost, shade, worms, bees. Encourage their ideas, if it is incorrect you can say 'that's interesting, or thank you for sharing', participation and talking is the aim. It doesn't matter so much what is correct or not. You can model how to respond positively to a child's ideas saying things such as;
- 'let's research that!' or 'I am not sure', 'let's find out together' or 'what a great idea/questions.'
- Provide time for children to express their experiences and thoughts. Communication skills include turn taking, eye contact, voice and expression, respectful responses, timing, explaining, and listening. These all need time to be practiced.



“Your mind is a garden.

Your thoughts are the seeds.

The harvest can either be flowers or weeds.”

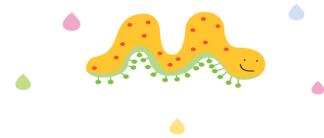
William Wordsworth

Song

Making the Garden Grow

Justine Clarke

There's a bumble bee
A honey bee
Gett'n the honey for you and me
Doin' it doin' it (repeat)
Buzzing around helping the garden grow



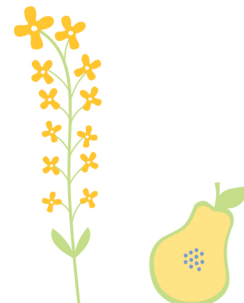
There's a litt'l worm digg'n around
Eating the dirt
From out of the ground
Doin' it doin' it (repeat)
Little worm helping the garden grow

Up in the sky there's a yellow sun
Shining down on every one
Doin' it doin' it (repeat)
Shine shine making the garden grow



There's a big fat cloud
And a drop of rain
Falling down on the window pain
Doin' it doin' it (repeat)

Spish splosh
Making the garden grow
Fly fly through the sky
Little bird drops a seed
The seed grows up into a tree
A green umbrella for you and me
Croaky frogs
Cats and dogs
Creepy crawlies under a log



Doin' it doin' it (repeat)
Every body making the garden grow
(Doin' it doin' it)
All over the world making the garden grow
(Doin' it doin' it)
You and me making the garden grow

Source: [Musixmatch](#). Doin' It (Making The Garden Grow) lyrics © Origin Music Publishing Pty Ltd



Read

- Read the endpapers of this book, there are many words here, naming objects and describing them will build vocabulary and concepts.
- Borrow books about nature, birds or plants from the library, use non-fiction books to gather lots of facts. Many books are also freely available via Library subscriptions such as Libby and StoryBox Library for read aloud – making books accessible from home or when you are out and about. Ask your local library.
- Visit a nature park like the Botanic Gardens or go on a hiking trail. Use online information or pamphlets on the area to build concepts around those environments.

Sing

- Singing slows down language so enables sounds to be heard more easily. Phonemic Awareness knowledge (sounds) is a foundation to literacy competency.
- Spotify and YouTube have a huge variety of songs. We have a Spotify Playlist 'Raising Literacy Australia' – Featured Stories
- Here are some song names you could try: Mary, Mary Quite Contrary • Round and Round the Garden • Here is the Bee Hive • Incy Wincy Spider • Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush • Jack and Jill went up the Hill • English Country Garden.
- Adapt your own from well-known tunes and your own made-up words.

Talk

- Talk about food. Ask open ended questions like; 'What kinds of plants make food?', 'What do plants need to grow?' Compare what plants need to grow with what people (and/or animals) need to grow. Discuss why it is important to care for living things.
- When you buy or see fruit and vegetables talk about where they come from, plants that grow underground (potatoes, carrots, onions) and fruit trees (apples, oranges, pears) or bushes (strawberries), vines (kiwi) or ground runners (pumpkin, watermelon).
- Talk about the concept of community, what it means to work together on creating something. What are the benefits of this, what are the challenges?
- Talk about other community initiatives and things you could do to help others.

Play

- Make your own garden stew. Use items from your garden, soil, plants and sticks to stir.
- Draw a plant or food growing plant you have seen.
- Be a Farmer, play pretend tending to a farm, perhaps an apple orchard or an olive grove, you are only limited by your imagination!
- Have a picnic, include lots of fruit and vegetables.
- Play a game of eye spy in the garden, or park.

STEM Focus. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Grow a seed – Seed Germination

Vocabulary: seeds, seedling, growth, change, sunlight, plant, water, stem, leaves, flower, roots, oxygen, nutrients, soil, environment.

1. Wet some cotton wool or kitchen paper and put it inside the plastic container leaving a gap of about 1 cm from the top.
2. Spread the cotton slightly to break up the fibres a little.
3. Sprinkle the seeds over the cotton wool and push each seed down lightly. Leave the container in a warm, dry, indirect sunlit place and watch for signs of growth.
4. Check the cotton wool daily. If it starts to feel dry sprinkle or spray it with a little water. The cotton wool needs to stay moist but not overly wet as the seeds can start to rot.

The seeds should start to grow in a couple of days.

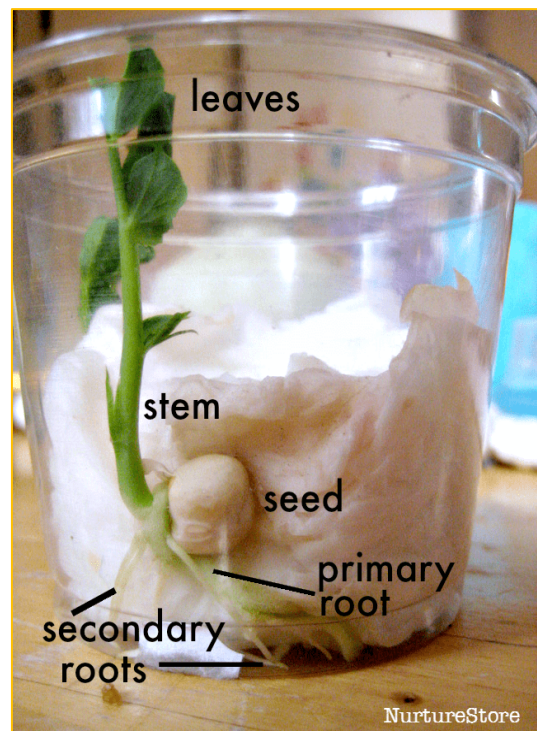
Once you see roots, transfer them into a pot or the garden, they cannot continue to grow without soil.

Seeds that germinate well in cotton well:

- Cress
- White mustard seeds
- Butter beans
- Mung beans
- Lima beans
- Broad beans
- Peas
- Alfalfa
- Avocados
- Lentils
- Sunflower seeds

Science: Predict what will occur, drawing or conversation. Observe the plant parts, seed, roots, stem, etc.

Maths: Measure the plants growth each day. Count the days until growth. Measure water used.
Technology: document with photos, create a video.



Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. Raising Literacy suggests the following books to support learning in this area. If your library has copies, make them available for families to borrow or include them in your story time session.

For more stories to share, we recommend the following titles:

- **Food, Me and ABC** by Raising Literacy Australia
- **Florette** by Anna Walker
- **Garden Stew** by Carrie Gallasch and Zoe Ingram
- **Emily Green's Garden** by Penny Harrison and Megan Forward
- **Let's Get Gardening: Australian Eco-gardening Projects for Children** by Dorling Kindersley

An Activity Time for this book is available to download for FREE from our website. This is a great resource to share with families, you are welcome to print and distribute as necessary.

Goodbye Song

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child's name in the place of 'you' as it develops a more personal relationship between yourself, the child and the family.

Sung to the tune of (*Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush*) or your choice.

Goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye (wave) say goodbye, say goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye to all our library friends (or) (to our friend.....)!

