



FALL | Sun Seed + Sun + Soil = Harvest

Summary:

Using a familiar story, *The Little Red Hen*, we will explore and reenact the fun we had over this past growing season. Invite some friends and together we will put on a play with our tiny gardeners

Before Visiting the Garden:

Gather: Costumes—this can be anything-including feathers or a red scarf, for our little red hen, a brown shirt or scarf, for your cat, etc. Large seeds such as corn or beans, a loaf of bread, and a picnic blanket.

Explore: Pictures of barns. Who do you think lives here? Do you see any animals?

Read: *The Little Red Hen* by Byron Barton—there are many versions of this story, any will do. This particular version has simple language and high contrast images for our littlest readers.

In the Garden:

Today we are going to get in touch with our inner actor! As gardeners grow, they learn how to interact with other people and their environment through imaginative play. As you walk around the garden, try to imagine the garden as a stage and the plants your props:

Questions to Explore:

- What part of the garden do you think would make a good house?
- Who would live in this house?
- Where would the kitchen be?
- What is the first meal you would cook in your garden house?

Activity:

1. After locating the tallest plant, use your measuring tape to determine the plant's height. Number recognition is just beginning for our tiny gardener, so write the height in the dirt and help your gardener trace the numbers.
2. Measure your gardener's height and write that in the dirt. Do the same with the smallest plant in the garden.
3. Mark your gardener's height on the stake and today's date.
4. Work together to decorate your stake.
5. Save your stake and use it next season to tie up your tomatoes and be sure to make your gardener's growth over the winter. You can also come back through the winter and use your stake to measure snowfall in the garden.

Before you leave the garden, take a few moments to gently collect some fresh produce to try with dinner tonight. Young children are willing to try a broad range of foods; they just need our help to access it! If your gardener is quite young, gently steam and puree veggies for them to try.

Beyond the Garden | Visit the Library for Story Time:

Many libraries sponsor story time for children. These story times are a great opportunity for your child to meet other kids and practice their social skills in addition to learning about fun stories from around the world. Check with your local library for schedules.

Continue Exploring | Supporting Materials

Short plays to put on from PBS Kids: <http://pbskids.org/zoom/activities/playhouse/>