

# The Carrot Seed

By Ruth Krauss

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A little boy plants a carrot seed. His mother, father, and big brother do not think the seed will grow. The little boy continues to pull up weeds and water the ground until one day, something very special happens.

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## BEFORE READING:

- Show the children the front of the book. Ask them to guess what the book is about.
- Ask them what they see on the front cover.
- Ask them to describe the little boy on the cover of the book.

## WHILE READING:

- Stop at any time if there is something you or the children would like to talk about.
- Ask them questions so that they can connect what is happening in the book to things they already know about. Try some of these ideas:
  - ⇒Have you ever planted a seed?
  - ⇒Have you ever done something that everyone said you could not do?
  - ⇒Do you like to eat carrots?

## AFTER READING:

Spend some time talking about the story. Ask the children things like:

- ⇒How did the boy take care of his seed?
- ⇒How do you think the boy would have felt if the seed had not grown?
- ⇒What happened at the end of the story?

Read this book several times to the children. Hearing the same story again and again helps them learn new words and understand the ideas they hear better. Each day, pick a different activity to do with the children after reading “The Carrot Seed.”

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## MATH AND SCIENCE

Give each child a seed. Ask the children what they are holding. Have them guess what will grow from the seed. Explain that certain seeds grow certain vegetables, flowers, trees etc. Talk about all the necessary elements for a seed to grow— water, soil, sun, and time. If possible, have the children plant their seed in a cup or pot of dirt to take home.

## READING READINESS

Help the children brainstorm a list of gardening words like sun, rain, dirt, weeds, etc. Have the children help you write the list in alphabetical order. It might help to go through each letter and say “ok what comes after A? B! Right! Do we have any words that start with B? What comes after B?” Continue through the alphabet until the entire list is in order.

## MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Talk to the children about the importance of eating healthy food, like carrots. Sing the Vegetable Song with the children, in the tune of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star: “Carrots, peas, and broccoli; vegetables are good for me. For my snack and in my lunch, veggie sticks are great to munch. Carrots, peas, and broccoli; vegetables are good for me.”

## MOTOR SKILLS

Help the children create a tasty “dirt cup” dessert. Provide each child with a small cup, two

chocolate sandwich cookies, pudding (premade is fine), and two gummy worms. Have the children smash up the cookies in their cup, and mix in the pudding. Give them gummy worms to put on top, and the children will have a fun and delicious treat.

## THINKING SKILLS

Talk to the children about a time when they thought they could do something, but no one believed them. Give an example from your own life if possible. Talk about the importance of never giving up and hard work. Tell them that it is ok to fail, and that doing your best is more important than winning.

## ART

Reread the story to the children. Ask the children what they think the little boy is going to do with the huge carrot. Have them think of fun and crazy ideas. Have the children draw or paint pictures of their ideas and then tell the class about their picture.

## PRETEND PLAY

Act out “The Carrot Seed” story. Pretend plant the seed, while the children pretend to be family members who keep telling you “I’m afraid it won’t come up.” Use facial expressions and gestures to show the children how the boy felt when his family did not encourage him. Talk about it afterward.

