Gardens and Nurseries

On lovely Northwest days, a trip to a local garden or nursery can be a fun, healthy way to spend a day. Add these learning ideas:

- Make a color chart with the colors labeled or use paint sample papers. At the garden or nursery, have your child match the color of the flowers to the colors on the chart.
- If there is a map of the garden or nursery, look over it together and decide where you want to explore.
- Select a few plants that you want to find. Describe them and have your child help you locate them at the nursery or garden.
- Have your child describe the different plants – colors, size, height, foliage, texture etc. Ask questions to encourage more description.
- Read the plant labels aloud.
- Spend some time looking at the seed packets. What colors do you see? What shapes? What are the plant names? Do you see any familiar plants?
- Talk to your child about what plants need in order to flourish and grow.
- Look for insects and talk about why they might be there.
- Don’t forget to stop and smell the roses!

Books about gardens and nurseries:
**Miss Rumphius** by Barbara Cooney
**Planting a Rainbow** by Lois Ehlert
**Rainbow Stew** by Catheryn Falwell
**Garbage Helps Our Garden Grow: A Compost Story** by Linda Glaser
**I’m a Seed** by Jean Marzollo
**If You Plant a Seed** by Kadir Nelson
**A Place to Grow** by Soyung Pak
**The Gardener** by Sarah Stewart

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