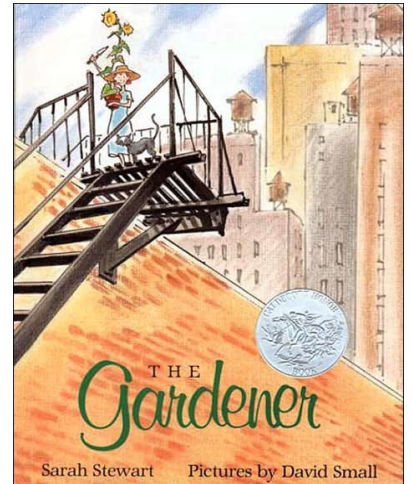


March 2014

## Books of the Month

### The Gardener by Sarah Stewart

This beautiful book tells the story of a young girl during the depression whose family is struggling to survive and thus sends her to live with an uncle she has never met. He is a brusque city-dweller and the girl is out of place until her Grandmother sends her some seeds from home. Over the span of a season, the girl finds (and creates) her place in the city and in her uncle's heart. A wonderful book for all ages.



## Other fun books featuring *Seeds*

**Plant a Little Seed** by Bonnie Christiansen – A lovely, poetic look at a year of seed planting, growing and harvesting. Nice for preschool.

**Jack's Garden** by Henry Cole—A wonderful garden reworking of *This is the House that Jack Built*. Preschool.

**Handsprings** by Douglas Florian—This is a wonderful book of poetry for children containing poems about Spring and gardens. Preschool and young school-age.

**From Seed to Plant** by Gail Gibbons—A vibrant book that covers practically everything about seeds. It can be read simply and straight through to preschoolers or with additional detail for school-aged children.

**How Do Seeds Sprout?** By Evan Rhodes—This informational book is a perfect introduction to planting seeds with children. Preschool.

**Planting Seeds** by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace—An adorable board book about seeds that is also a counting book. Perfect for Infants and toddlers.

**Miss Maple's Seeds** by Eliza Wheeler—this lovely picture book follows Miss Maple as she gathers seeds in the Fall, tends them over the Winter and plants them in the Spring. A gentle read for preschool and young school-age.

## Rhyme of the Month

### Seeds

Here's a little seed  
in the dark, dark ground.  
Out comes the warm sun,  
yellow and round.  
Down comes the rain,  
wet and slow.  
Up comes the little seed,  
grow, grow, grow!

## Poem of the Month

### Spring Seeds

We tilled the earth  
Took out the weeds,  
Then in the soil,  
Planted seeds:  
Pumpkin,  
Parsley,  
Carrot,  
Pea,  
Spring succeeds ex-seed-ing-ly.



Douglas Florian

Free STARS trainings are listed at [www.piercecountylibrary.org](http://www.piercecountylibrary.org)

Due to the new smaller class size requirement only teachers with tickets will be admitted to the class. To register and receive a ticket. Contact Susan Anderson-Newham at [susana@piercecountylibrary.org](mailto:susana@piercecountylibrary.org)



# Learning Ideas for March

## Newspaper Pots

### What you need:

- newspaper
- scissors
- glass or cup for a mould - if possible this should have a small concave in the base
- potting mix
- seeds of your choice
- water
- twine
- low-cut cardboard box or Styrofoam box

### Activity:

Fold a length of newspaper in half.

Roll it around the cup at least twice, leaving about 3-5cm to tuck into the base.

Tuck paper up into concave base tightly. Tie twine around the outside of the cup.

Slip the paper off the cup. Make as many as you need.

Fill each pot with potting mix. Get the kids to help!

Sow seed into the potting mix. Repeat until finished.

Store seedling pots in a low-cut cardboard box or Styrofoam box.

Get the kids to water regularly and keep an eye on them.

Depending on the seeds potted, you should see some sprouting happening within the week.

Once your seeds have become seedlings, let the kids plant the whole thing - newspaper pot and all - into the ground.

The pot will break down and you will have a gorgeous garden full of bloom, herbs or veggies in no time.



## Good Seeds for Planting

*Sunflower, Scarlet Runner, Sweet Peas·  
Peas, Radishes and Lettuce seeds sprout  
very quickly and so are a nice choice·*



## Theme Garden

One of the best ways to encourage very young children to eat organic vegetables is to grow them yourselves!

A theme garden is a garden full of vegetables that will eventually grow into a particular recipe. For example—grow Stone Soup! Plant carrots, tomatoes, potatoes, basil, zucchini, onions, and corn. When everything is ripening, pick the vegetables and make soup together!

### **Vegetable soup**

- 1 Tbsp butter
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 Onion, diced
- 2 tomatoes, diced
- 2 cups Chicken or vegetable broth
- 1 cup water
- 1 potato, diced
- 2 carrots, sliced
- 1 zucchini, sliced
- 1 cup fresh corn
- Salt and pepper to taste.

Heat the butter and oil in a pan. Add the onions and cook them gently for about 5 minutes. Add tomatoes and cook for another 5—10 minutes. Set aside.

Add the water and stock to a large pot and add potato and carrots. Simmer for about 10 minutes. Add zucchini and corn. Cook all ingredients together for about 10 minutes.

Pour onion/tomato mixture into the pot and season with salt and pepper.

You can find a myriad of early learning information at our website:

<http://www.piercecountylibrary.org/>

(in the parents/caregivers section of the Kids/Teens menu)