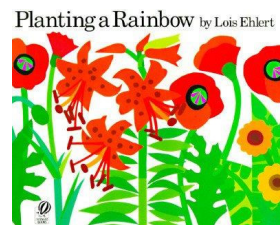# Mengle Memorial Library

presents:

Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehlert

Planting a Rainbow is a great book to talk about colors, planting a garden, and flowers. Ask the children if anyone has a garden at home. Talk about how plants grow. Explain to the children that the water is absorbed by the roots, and plants need sunlight to grow. Introduce photosynthesis. Explain how plants use water and minerals from the soil in combination with sunlight to create food. Compare how a plant uses food to grow and how a human or animal uses food to grow.

When children learn the names of colors, they use them in their everyday language to enhance their descriptions of the world around them. Talk to children in ways to increase their vocabulary. If they say 'Ball" say "Yes, the blue ball is bouncing across the room." As you read the story, point out the colors in this book, but do not say it. Have the children tell you the colors in the text.

Books about gardens!

Up, Down and Around by Katherine Ayers	Paddington's Garden by Michael Bond
Flower Garden by Eve Bunting	Growing Things by Christine Corona
From the Garden by Michael Dahl	Growing Vegetable Soup by Lois Ehlert
Oliver's Vegetables by Vivian French	Inch by Inch the Garden Song by David Mallet
The Surprise Garden by Zoe Hall	Growing Plants by Allen Paterson
In the Garden by Dawn Sirett	Maggie's Colorful Garden by Saline Yoon

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Extend the Book

Talk about taking care of the garden, why you need to weed and water plants. Ask the children what plants need to grow (sun, soil, water). Talk about the different parts of a plant are and what they do to help the plant grow (roots, stem, leaves, flower). Discuss the root system and the job it does for the plant.

Plant seeds in a clear cup or container so that the children can see the roots as the plant grows. Plant a variety of flowers and make a graph to chart the growth of the plants every few days or once a week. This will teach the children about measurement, graphing, and plant care. If plants are not growing, you can work as a class on a solution. Maybe the plant is not getting enough water or sunlight. Maybe it needs some fertilizer. Make a plan and test it to see if you see a change on the graph in the plant's growth.

Look up real pictures of the flowers in books or on a computers. Label the pictures with the name of the flowers on them. Read the book again, and show the children the picture of the real flower when you get to it in the story.

For younger children, use this book to talk about or review colors. Collect pictures or magazines with pictures of flowers and plants of various colors and make a color book or a collage. Have the children glue the pictures into the correct color section.

Look around the room and talk about the different colors you see. It is, also, important to point out the different shades, hues, and tints. Make up names for these colors together, such as "lemon yellow" or "apple red." You will be helping your child use color as a means for creative thinking and language. Encourage your child to use

descriptive language as they tell you how one blue is different from another. "That blue is dark like the ocean and this one is light like the sky."

Here are some fun songs and rhymes!

We Are Gardeners (*Farmer in the Dell*)
We all plant the seeds
We all plant the seeds
Heigh ho the derry-o
We all plant the seeds
Bend down to plant seeds
The sun comes out to shine
The sun comes out to shine
Heigh ho the derry-o
The sun comes out to shine
Hold hands up in the air to be the sun
The rain starts to fall
The rain starts to fall
Heigh ho the derry-o
The rain starts to fall
Use fingers to simulate rain falling
The seeds start to grow
The seeds start to grow
Heigh ho the derry-o
The seeds start to grow
Put hand through other hand to mimic plant coming out of soil

We all smell the flowers
We all smell the flowers
Heigh ho the derry-o
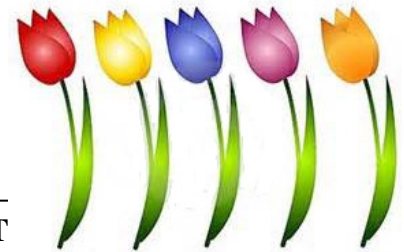We all smell the flowers
Sniff flowers extravagantly

Dig a Little Hole
Dig a little hole (*dig*)
Plant a little seed (*drop seed*)
Pour a little water (*pour*)
Pull a little weed (*pull up and throw away*)
Chase a little bug (*chasing motion*)
Heigh-ho, there he goes! (*shade eyes*)
Give a little sunshine (*make sun*)
Grow a little rose (*smell flower, eyes closed*)

flower

stem

leaf

T
(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.

Five Spring Flowers
Five spring flowers, all in a row.
The first one said, "We need rain to grow!"
The second one said, "Oh my, we need water!"
The third one said, "Yes, it is getting hotter!"
The fourth one said, "I see clouds in the sky."
The fifth one said, "I wonder why?"

Then BOOM went the thunder
And ZAP went the lightning!
That springtime storm was really frightening!
But the flowers weren't worried–no, no, no, no!
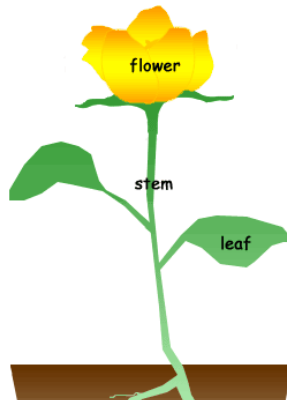The rain helped them to grow, grow, GROW!

One little daffodil
One little daffodil had nothing much to do,
Out popped another one, then there were two.

Two little daffodils were smiling at a bee,
Out popped another one, then there were three.

Three little daffodils were growing by the door,
Out popped another one, then there were four.

Four little daffodils were glad to be alive,
Out popped another one, then there were five.

Five little daffodils were wearing golden crowns,
They danced in the breeze in green satin gowns.