



LIFE CYCLE

Play is so integral to childhood that a child who does not have the opportunities to play is cut off from a major portion of childhood.
Musselwhite

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Lola Plants a Garden by Anna McQuinn

Lola Plants a Garden is about a young girl who learns how to make a garden from books at the library. Step by step, readers follow Lola through the process of growing flowers.

Ages: 0 to 6 Years

Explore the Book Ideas:

- Before you read the book, teach the children the nursery rhyme "Mary, Mary Quite Contrary" (included in kit).

Playful Activity Ideas:

- 1) Plant zinnia seeds in small peat pots. Assign children the task of watering the flowers every few days and keep a chart of the tasks. Learn what flowers need to grow from the book included in this kit.

Kit Supplies: Zinnia seeds, peat pots, potting soil, watering can, growing things How-To

- 2) Grow Grass and a Pet! Preschoolers and science go together like peanut butter and jelly! Their natural curiosity about the world make the word "why" bubble from their lips almost constantly. Give your children a chance to do their very own science experiment with a few simple supplies that show how things grow. Throw in something extra to up the fun factor.. and the kids can make their own grass pets!

Kit Supplies: grass seed, masking tape, potting soil, knee-high pantyhose





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Play is our brain's favorite way of learning.
Diane Ackerman

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First the Egg by Laura Vaccaro Seeger

First the Egg is a Caldecott Honor book about transformations ... from egg to chicken, seed to flower, and caterpillar to butterfly. Beautiful illustrations highlighted with cutouts of the eggs, seeds, etc. make this book highly engaging.

Ages: 0 to 6 years

Explore the Book Ideas:

- Help the children guess what comes next as you're reading.
- Give out stick puppets to children to hold up when the "first" turns into the "then" (chicken, frog, flower, butterfly)

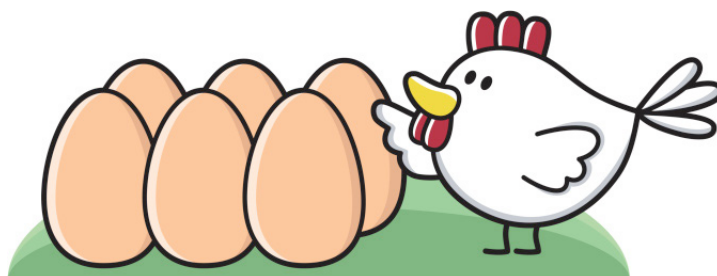
Kit Supplies: Stick Puppets

Playful Activity Ideas:

- 1) Play "Chicken & Egg" with this eight-piece set of colorful egg cups perfect for stacking and nesting. Playing "Chicken & Egg" teaches motor skills as little ones match tops and bottoms. Stacking up and knocking down teaches cause and effect.

Kit Supplies: chicken and egg stackers

- 2) When it's snack time, go through your "1st this, then this" rules and expectations. First we wash our hands, then we sit down at the table. First we say thank you, then we eat. Etc.





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*Necessity may be the mother of invention,
but play is certainly the father.*
Roger von Oech

The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss

The Carrot Seed is the classic story of the faith of a young child. No matter who says "It won't come up," he keeps the faith that the seed will come up.

Explore the Book Ideas:

Ages: 0 to 6 years

- Help the children guess what comes next as you're reading.
- Talk about patience and different times in life where we need to be patient.
- Talk to children about different kinds of seeds and what plant grows from the seed; i.e. if you plant a tomato seed what grows out of the seed?

Playful Activity Ideas:

- 1) Seed Sorting Activity: Match the seed packages to the plastic foods that grow from them.
Kit Supplies: seed packages, plastic vegetables
- 2) Observe first-hand how seeds take root and grow into a plant. Follow the instructions in your Root Viewer to grow three different types of vegetables.
Kit Supplies: Root Viewer

