

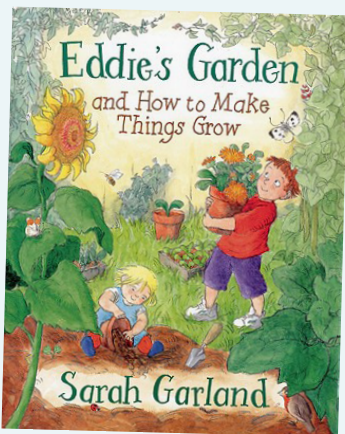
Reading with children can improve their language, literacy, and social-emotional skills, increasing their knowledge of the world around them. With the right book choices, reading can introduce children to healthy eating habits too!

EDDIE'S GARDEN AND HOW TO MAKE THINGS GROW

by Sarah Garland

What It's All About

Eddie and his sister learn about gardening from their mother. Together they purchase materials for the garden and then work hard by digging in the earth, planting seeds, pulling weed and watering all of the plants in the garden. All of their hard work pays off as seeds begin to sprout, beans start to grow, and flowers shoot up.



Jumpstart is a national early education organization working toward the day every child in America enters kindergarten prepared to succeed. Learn more at jstart.org.

Reading Tips

Throughout the story introduce new vocabulary words using gestures, tone of voice, pointing to illustrations, or providing brief explanations. Examples include:

- *Weed*: a plant growing in the wrong place
- *Beanstalk*: the stem of a bean plant
- *Broccoli*: a green vegetable with thick green stems

Develop children's comprehension of the story by discussing higher-level information (e.g., link characters' feelings to their actions and/or events in the story, predict what might happen, summarize chunks of text). Use prompts throughout the story, such as:



- *What types of plants do you think Eddie, Lily and their mum will plant in their garden?*
- *Why do Eddie and his mum go outside in the middle of the night? How do you think Eddie feels after they catch the slugs?*

After reading the story, make connections to an aspect of the child's real life:

- Look together in the back of the book and select a gardening project (indoor or outdoor) to do as a family
- Together find pictures and informational text, either at the library or online, about how some of your favorite vegetables grow
- Discuss a project your family worked on together

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Some definitions taken from Biemiller, A. (2010). *Words worth teaching: Closing the vocabulary gap.*