

# Storytime Activity Guide

## *One Little Lot*

written by Diane C. Mullen and illustrated by Oriol Vidal



This counting book showcases how a community comes together to clean up an abandoned lot and transform it into a community garden. As the garden grows, neighbors and strangers become friends, eventually sharing in a special feast with their harvest bounty.

### Did you know?

Nature provides a rich and engaging learning environment that supports children's understanding of science concepts. By immersing young children in natural settings and experiences, they develop a strong foundation for scientific thinking and exploration. Nature allows children to witness firsthand the life cycles of plants and animals. Watching seeds sprout into plants or observing caterpillars transform into butterflies helps children comprehend the concept of growth and life stages. While reading *One Little Lot*, children have the chance to observe how plants grow and change over time.



### Words to Practice

sprouting  
seedling  
root  
leaves  
pollinating  
honeybees

### Talk about it!

- In this book, an empty lot is transformed into a garden. How does this change happen?
- What are all the things that seeds need to grow into plants?
- How do the seeds change over time to become plants?
- If you had a garden, what would you grow?

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## Explore!

Use a few beans, a damp paper towel, and a plastic bag to get seeds to grow. Using a plastic bag allows children to observe how seeds sprout, a process that is normally hidden by dirt.

### Materials needed:

- Small plastic zipper storage bag
- Dried, uncooked beans, peas, or seeds
- Paper towels
- Water
- Tape

1. Soak your beans in water for 24 hours before you start the activity. Soaking the beans will help to “wake up” the seeds and get them ready to germinate faster.
2. “Plant” bean seeds in a plastic bag. Dampen a paper towel and fold it so it will fit into the plastic bag. Place a few bean seeds on the paper towel and place the paper towel and bean seeds into the bag. Talk about why we are putting a wet towel in the bag with the bean seeds. (Seeds need water to grow.)
3. Seal the bag tightly and hang it in a window with tape. Make sure that the beans are visible. Explain that because the plastic bag is clear, we will be able to see how the seeds in the bag start to grow and change.
4. Invite children to make predictions. Accept all responses. *How do you think these beans are going to change? What do you think will happen tomorrow? In three days time? In a week’s time?*
5. Observe the germinating beans each day: What changes are you able to notice? Record the beans’ germination by taking a photo each day.
6. After a few days, examine and discuss the bean seeds in the bag using the following questions: *What do you notice about our bean seeds? Do all the bean seeds look the same? How are they different? How many of the seeds have sprouts? Where does the sprout come out of the bean seed? How can we describe the sprouts? What color are they?*
7. Ask children to draw the sprouting beans on paper. Help children label their bean seed diagrams with sticker labels or by writing words for them—seed, sprout, and roots. You can also take a photo of the sprouting beans.
8. Repeat steps 6 and 7 two or three more times.



### Play: Neighborhood Plant Hunt

Take a walk in your neighborhood and look for plants along sidewalks, parks, and gardens.

For the plants you find, name the different parts. Can you count the leaves? Do the plants have seeds you can see? Flowers? Talk about the different parts and how they help plants grow.

Repeat this for a few plants of different types.

Take a photo of the plants you find. Compare the different plants: Which one was the tallest? Which one had the most leaves? Which one had the fewest flowers?

