

What's in Our Library?



**A Compilation of City Blossoms'
Favorite Books for Kids & Their Educators**



A free resource of over 200 garden, nature and food-themed books for children ages two to ten. For a digital copy visit www.cityblossoms.org





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Welcome to Our Garden Library

Gardens are great places to enjoy a book together in preparation for an activity or to find a nook for some independent reading. In the last few years, the book world has expanded kid's literature to include greater diversity in protagonists, cultures, experiences, and languages. There are also more stories now about building relationships with nature, and strengthening our communities through gardening, cooking, celebrating, and engaging in all kinds of activities that bring us together.

There are so many nourishing books out there now that it can be hard to know where to start. Here is a list of books that we love to use in our **Early Childhood** and **Elementary School** programming, organized by theme and grade level. Consider adding these books to classroom libraries for independent reading, using them to introduce new concepts and outdoor activities, or for garden storytimes. We've also included some tried-and-true curricula and other educator resources. Enjoy!

The themes included in this list are:

- Seeds
- Plant Growth
- Soil & Compost
- In the Garden
- Building Community
- Being in Nature
- Seasons & Weather
- Insects & Wildlife - Non Fiction
- Insects & Wildlife - Fiction
- Food & Culture
- Farm to Table
- Real Life Heroes
- Art Power
- Wonder
- Educator Resources

One more thing...Bilingual (Spanish/English) books are marked in **magenta**. Books known to be offered in languages other than English at the time of this publication are marked in **green**.

This list was inspired by and can be used as a companion to the [DC Healthy Schools Booklist](#), a list of 400 books for Kindergarten - 5th grade, created by the DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education.

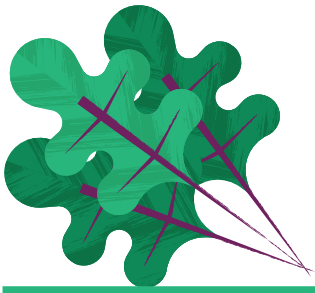
City Blossoms is a nonprofit dedicated to fostering healthy communities by developing creative, kid-driven green spaces. Applying our unique brand of gardens, science, art, healthy living, and community building, we "blossom" in neighborhoods where kids, their families, and neighbors may not otherwise have access to green spaces.

*This list was compiled in 2019 by Emma Boel and the City Blossoms team.
For more information and other resources visit www.cityblossoms.org*

Seeds



Title	Author	Description	Reading Level
Because of an Acorn	Lola Schaefer	A favorite with our youngest gardeners, this is a fun-filled look at a forest ecosystem, and a celebration of all the life that one small acorn can bring.	Early Childhood
Bloom	Deborah Diesen	This is our favorite book for bulb season. A mother and daughter plant bulbs in the fall, and when spring comes, they reflect on all the things that happened since they planted their garden.	Pre-K and Kinder
The Carrot Seed	Ruth Krauss	This classic is a treat to read in the garden. A little boy plants a carrot seed, and everyone tells him it won't grow, but he takes gentle care of it anyway. We love this story for younger gardeners just getting started.	Early Childhood
A Fruit Is a Suitcase For Seeds	Jean Richards	This book is full of images. It's a great resource for teaching the definition of a fruit, and for talking about the plant life cycle with young children.	Kinder - 2nd Grade
Little Seeds	Charles Ghigna	This rhyming, rhythmic book includes bright colors and a group of gardening friends. It's short and captivating; perfect for little growers. Check out the rest of the series for other adventures.	Early Childhood
One Bean	Anne Rockwell	This little book is about two children who plant a bean at home and watch it grow. With simple pictures to introduce plant science basics, this is a good book to read before any seed-sprouting experiment.	Pre-K and Kinder
Plant a Kiss	Amy Krouse Rosenthal & Peter H. Reynolds	Little Miss planted a kiss, and after some doubting and pouting, something amazing grows. This is a fun read for very young children. Use it to talk about how we share garden harvests and garden joy.	Early Childhood
Plant the Tiny Seed	Christie Matheson	This book prompts readers to participate in the story with movement and sound as they help to plant a seeds together. An engaging read-a-loud for any class.	Early Childhood - 2nd Grade
A Seed Is Sleepy	Dianna Hutts Aston	Part of a series of nature-themed books, the eye-catching colors and abundance of examples in this book introduces kids to the diversity of seeds.	Kinder - 5th Grade
Sylvia's Spinach	Katherine Pryor	This is a book about a little girl who hates spinach... until her teacher hands her spinach seeds to plant in the school garden. A delightful elementary narrative.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade



Plant Growth

Title	Author	Description	Reading Level
A Flower Grows	Ken Robbins	This book has great photographs to illustrate the life cycle of a bulb. Read it in the winter to watch an Amaryllis bloom and fold before growing your own in the classroom.	Kinder - 5th Grade
Flowers	Vijaya Bodac	This is a fantastic series for studying the different parts of a plant with little ones. Use it to bring some science into garden recipes or murals, or to introduce a lesson.	Pre-K and Kinder
Fruits			
Leaves			
Roots			
Seeds			
Stems			
Flowers Are Calling	Rita Gray	This rhyming story is a mesmerizing way to introduce pollination to young children. It even touches on how different blossoms attract different insects.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
From Seed to Pumpkin	Wendy Pfeffer	The main characters in this story are three children and a pumpkin farmer. The book touches on introductory plant science topics, including how plants drink, how they make energy, and how bees pollinate.	Early Childhood - 2nd Grade
Plant Secrets	Emily Goodman	In an art-focused rendering of the plant life cycle, seeds become plants, then flowers, fruits, then seeds again. Includes plenty of illustrations of different kinds of seeds to explore diversity and categorizing.	Kinder - 3rd Grade
Pumpkin Circle: The Story of a Garden	George Levenson	This is a great early plant science book for very young children. Read it in the fall to ignite curiosity about how pumpkins grow, and admire the detailed plant-part pictures together.	Early Childhood - 2nd Grade
National Geographic: Seed to Plant	Kristin Baird Rattini	This is an introductory plant science book that is a good choice for independent readers. They'll get a glimpse at all the basics, pictures, and pronunciation tips included.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
What Do Roots Do?	Kathleen Kudlinski	This rhyming book explores what different roots do, from carrot to cactus. It's a nice introduction to this part of a plant.	Kinder - 3rd Grade

Soil & Compost



Title	Author	Description	Reading Level
Compost Stew	M. McKenna Siddals	This mixture of collage and rhymes is a perfect introduction to compost for elementary students. You'll all become garden chefs working on a recipe for "compost stew."	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
Diary of a Worm	Doreen Cronin	This is a great read to introduce worms, especially before finding them in the garden. The funny diary delights kids and adults, while building an understanding that worms are friendly, living things.	Pre-K - 3rd Grade
Dirt: The Scoop on Soil	Natalie M. Rosinsky	Dig in to the wondrous world of dirt! In this introduction to soil, young science and nature lovers will discover the components of dirt, how it's made, and how to maintain healthy soil for the environment.	Kinder - 4th Grade
An Earthworm's Life	John Himmelman	This is a detailed introduction to earthworms, spanning through one worm's life cycle. Gardeners will learn vocabulary words like "castings" and "egg case."	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
Jump Into Science: Dirt	Steven Tomecek	Follow a star-nosed mole through different kinds of soil and learn the basics of soil science with colorful and fun illustrations.	Pre-K - 3rd Grade
Soil Basics (Science Builders)	Mari Schuh	With the help of clear photographs, with this book take a closer look at soil, all the parts that make it up, and how it works.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
The Street Beneath My Feet	Charlotte Guillain	This elaborate book is a great one to give to curious, older students for some independent reading. Take a journey that starts just beneath the sidewalk, and goes all the way to the center of the earth!	2nd - 5th Grade
Wonderful Worms	Linda Glaser	Soothing and poetic, this book gives children a peek into the whimsy of underground worlds and all their parts.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
Worm Loves Worm	J.J. Austrian & Mike Curato	We were so pleased when we found this book! Worm loves worm, but who will wear the dress at the wedding? This is a sweet intro to these creatures, and a prompt to pose the question: are worms boys or girls? (Hint: neither/both).	Pre-K - 3rd Grade
Worm Weather	Jean Taft	This book of sounds and images follows a boy and a girl as they delight in the music of a rainy day, and celebrate the wiggly creatures who love the mud.	Early Childhood



In the Garden

Title	Author	Description	Reading Level
Call Me Tree/ Llamame Arbol	Maya Christina Gonzales	In this bilingual story, a young boy starts as a sleeping seed and grows into a tree. He tells us that some trees reach, some trees sing songs, and some trees teach.	Pre-K and Kinder
Green Bean! Green Bean!	Patricia Thomas & Trina L. Hunner	This rhyming story is a great way to introduce very young children to the plant life cycle. Go on a garden journey with a girl and her dog!	Early Childhood
The Magic Garden	Walter Foster Jr.	A little girl lives in a magic garden, but doesn't notice the wonders all around her. This book encourages us to notice the amazing things that happen outside.	Early Childhood - 1st Grade
My Garden/Mi Jardín: Board Book	Rebecca Emberley	This sweet baby book matches garden images with their names in both Spanish and English. A great book to hand to your youngest gardener.	Early Childhood
Planting a Rainbow	Lois Ehlert	Captivating like a collection of paint samples, this book is a great tool for getting very young gardeners excited about the bounty of a garden.	Early Childhood
Plantzilla	Jerdine Nolen	Mortimer Henryson takes his class plant, Plantzilla, home for summer break. With his care and attention, it grows and adventures ensue.	Pre-K - 4th Grade
Rachel's Day in the Garden	Giselle Shardlow	This is a kids' yoga story, where Rachel moves through the poses of a spring day. Use it to incorporate movement into your outdoor play, or classroom storytime.	Pre-K and Kinder
The Rose in My Garden	Anita & Arnold Lobel	This rhyming story builds and builds on itself, starting with only a rose and ending with a whole garden world, cat-and-mouse chase included.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
Sunflower House	Eve Bunting	A charming tale of a group of children who plant a Sunflower House from seed and care for it as it grows up tall.	Preschool - 2nd Grade
This is the Sunflower	Lola M. Schaefer	One sunflower stands tall in a front-yard garden, as the creatures come and go along with days and nights. This is a calming read for very young ones.	Early Childhood - 1st Grade
Up, Down, and Around	Katherine Ayres	We love this book so much that we have four copies! This rhyming story shows all the ways a garden can grow. Use this book to encourage youngsters to move their bodies like plants or to inspire an indoor mural.	Early Childhood - 1st Grade



Building Community

Title	Author	Description	Reading Level
Anywhere Farm	Phyllis Root	In this rhyming book, readers discover all the possibilities that can come from the only things you need: water, sun, soil, and a seed.	Pre-K and Kinder
The Curious Garden	Peter Brown	This is a book about a city where nothing grows and no one goes outside...except one boy named Liam. When Liam finds some plants up on the broken train tracks, he ends up growing a garden that sprouts all kind of curious new things, including other gardeners.	Pre-K - 3rd Grade
Grandma Lena's Big Ol' Turnip	Denia Hester and Jackie Urbanovic	This tale blends an old Russian folk story with African American cooking traditions. It takes Grandma Lena's entire family to pull one giant turnip out of the ground, and all their friends and neighbors to enjoy the yummy turnip dishes that Grandma makes.	Pre-K - 3rd Grade
Green Green: A Community Gardening Story	Marie Lamba, Baldev Lamba, & Sonia Sanchez	In this rhyming book of colors, green pops up between the browns and grays of a city, and the city and the garden grows.	Early Childhood
Grow Happy	Jon Lasser, Sage Foster-Lasses, and Christopher Lyles	This book shows readers that growing a garden and growing happiness takes the same set of skills: both involve good choices, kindness, and tender care. This is a great read for talking about positive behaviors in garden spaces and in life.	Early Childhood
The Little Gardener	Emily Hughes	This sweet story is about a gardener who is just too little to take care of his garden, though he loves it so. He makes a wish for a bit of help, and something wonderful happens.	Pre-K and Kinder
The Little Hummingbird	Michael Yahgulanaas	This is the story of a hummingbird who brings drops of water to a forest fire in her beak, telling the other animals that she's just doing what she can. Featuring a message from Wangari Maathai, this is a short but powerful read.	Kinder - 3rd Grade
Lola Plants a Garden	Anna McQuinn	Lola's favorite poem is about a garden, and her mom lets her plant her own! She fills it with shiny bells, and invites her friends over to see the colors and share the food.	Early Childhood

Title	Author	Description	Reading Level
Mary Had a Little Lamb: Indestructibles	Jonas Sickler	This indestructible book is for babies who love pictures! This Mary has a little lamb in her village in southern Africa.	Early Childhood
Miss Rumphius	Barbara Cooney	This is the story of a woman who went on many adventures, and then came to live by the sea, just like she wanted. Alas, she always remembered that her grandfather told her to do one more thing: something to make the world more beautiful. A lovely read.	1st - 4th Grade
Muncha! Muncha! Muncha!	Candace Fleming & G. Brian Karas	This fun story is about Mr. McGreely, who finally builds the garden of his dreams, but just cannot keep out the hungry bunnies!	Pre-K and K
The Night Gardener	The Fan Brothers	This is a great choice for early elementary. It's the story of a town that wakes up each morning to find its trees pruned into the shapes of beautiful animals. One little boy goes out to discover the night gardener.	Kinder - 3rd Grade
Old MacDonald Had a Farm: Indestructibles	Jonas Sickler	Another great baby-proof picture book! This Old MacDonald has a farm in Bolivia.	Early Childhood
Our Community Garden	Barbara Pollak	This is a story about kids growing fruits and vegetables in their own garden. Read this book to inspire young stewards to cultivate their plants with care, and to choose the ones that suit them best.	Kinder - 3rd Grade
The Paper-Flower Tree	Jacqueline Ayer	In this story from Thailand, a little girl named Miss Moon plants a bead in hopes of growing a tree of colorful paper flowers. Readers will be surprised by what she can grow.	Pre-K - 3rd Grade
The Runaway Garden	Jeffery L. Schatzer and Jeffrey Ebbler	This book will touch your heart with its rhyming rhythm, its fairytale illustrations, and the grandfather and granddaughter swinging on a porch swing in the center of everything. Bring this tale of one magical night to young gardeners, or share it with older children who like a good yarn.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
The Streets are Free	Kurusa & Monika Doppert	This is a story about kid power! Cheo, Carlitos, and Camila know that they need a playground in their neighborhood in Venezuela, so they make it happen with family and friends. This is a great read for older students about community and activism.	1st - 5th Grade
Tokyo Digs a Garden	Jon-Erik Lappano	This is a captivating book for elementary students. Out-of-this-world scenes unfold when a little boy receives 3 seeds from an old woman in a place where only high rises and highways seem to grow.	Early Childhood - 2nd Grade

Title	Author	Description	Reading Level
Too Many Carrots	Katy Hudson	Rabbit collects so many carrots, that he can't even fit in his burrow anymore! After a series of misadventures, where he tries to find other places to stay, he realizes that sharing instead of collecting could solve all his problems.	Early Childhood - 1st Grade
Two Old Potatoes and Me	John Coy & Carolyn Fisher	With unique artwork, this book tells the story of a father and daughter who find something gross (old potatoes) and turn them into something new (potato plants!). A nice read for younger elementary.	Kinder - 3rd Grade
The Ugly Vegetables	Grace Lin	This is a sweet story of neighbors, a mother and daughter, and a backyard garden full of something different. A little girl thinks that she and her mother are doing everything wrong, but then their garden grows into something unique to share.	Kinder - 3rd Grade
Weslandia	Paul Fleischman	Wesley needs something to do during summer break. He's learned that each civilization needs a staple food crop, so he turns over a plot of earth. As plants begin to grow, so does Weslandia.	Kinder - 4th Grade
When Grandma Gives You a Lemon Tree	Jamie L.B. Deenihan	In this tale a child is surprised (and disappointed) to receive a lemon tree from Grandma for her birthday. However, when she begins to care for the plant, she discovers that the tree might be exactly what she wanted after all. This clever story, celebrates the pleasures of patience, hard work, nature, and community.	Pre-k - 3rd Grade
Whose Garden Is It?	May Ann Hoberman	In this rhyming tale, a gardener claims that the garden he planted belongs to him, but the many animals and insects who call the garden home have another story to tell. A great conversation-starter about making a garden a communal space for people and nature.	Early Childhood - 2nd Grade





Being in Nature

Title	Author	Description	Reading Level
Another Way to Climb a Tree	Liz Garton Scanlon	LuLu climbs the trees that no one dares to climb, but when she's sick and the branches are missing her, she has to find another way to climb a tree.	Early Childhood
Backyard Fairies	Phoebe Wahl	This is a vibrant story about imaginative nature play. Read it with children to encourage them to build fairy houses using natural and found objects.	Early Childhood - 2nd Grade
The Busy Tree	Jennifer Ward & Lisa Falkenstern	This book incorporates rhymes into the exploration of all the life that one tree holds. It makes a nice introduction to a habitat lesson, or just an everyday read before a walk in the park.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
Charlotte and the Quiet Place	Deborah Sosin	Charlotte likes quiet. But she is surrounded by noise in her house, school, and city. This watercolor-illustrated story follows Charlotte's journey as she finds a quite place in nature.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
Chirri & Chirra	Kaya Doi	Translated from Japanese, this story is about two girls who ride their bikes through a woodsy wonderland, and features a bee tea time and creature concert. Like this story? Check out their other nature-based adventures.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
Finding Wild	Megan Wagner Lloyd	This book explores the sounds, smells, and feelings of the wild, and shows readers how to find it. A beautiful and sensory read, this is a good choice for encouraging exploratory play in young children.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
I Know the River Loves Me/Yo Sé Que el Río Me Ama	Maya Christina Gonzalez	This is a touching book, with the words woven into the river water. We love reading about the ways one girl knows that the river loves her, and how she shows love back. A good way to start a conversation about caring for our waterways.	Kinder - 2nd Grade
Indestructibles: Plop-Plop Pond!	Karen Pixton	Invite your baby to explore pond images with this child-proof book! We love the indestructibles series.	Early Childhood
Kate, Who Tamed the Wind	Liz Garton Scanlon & Lee White	This story uses rhymes to tell the story of a little girl who plants trees to tame the wind. Lots of pictures and charm come with this read.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
A Kid's Guide to Exploring Nature	Brooklyn Botanical Garden	This gorgeously illustrated guide will inspire kids to observe environments as naturalists do. It leads them on 24 adventures that reveal the complex ecosystems in the woods, at the beach, and in a city park.	3rd - 5th Grade

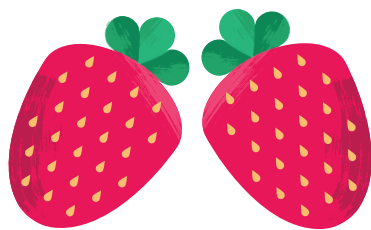
Title	Author	Description	Reading Level
The Listening Walk	Paul Showers	A great introduction to mindfulness for young students. A little girl points out all the things you can hear when you go on a walk and do not talk.	Early Childhood - 2nd Grade
Maisy's Nature Walk	Lucy Cousins	Pull the tabs on this pop-up book to delight littles with all the colors and movements you can find on a nature walk.	Early Childhood
Over and Under the Pond	Kate Messner	A mother and son paddle through a pond on a canoe, and talk about all the wildlife that's living above and below them. This is a good introduction to the complexities that make up ecosystems. Like this book? Make sure to check out the rest of the series.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
Over in the Meadow	Ezra Jack Keats	A beautiful rhyming book, this story is about different animal moms and their babies. Counting from one baby up to ten, this is an engaging read for young children.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
Pond	Jim LaMarche	A longer read, this story is about three children who turn a trickle of water into a pond. The book features different animals, the passing of seasons, and plenty of outdoor adventure.	Kinder - 3rd Grade
A River	Marc Martin	This is an imaginative story, where a little girl wonders what it would be like to sail all the way down the river outside her window. With very few words and amazing illustrations, it's a nice way to introduce an art or literacy project about waterways.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
Sidewalk Flowers	JonArno Lawson	This is a captivating picture book without words. Narrating the images together is an exciting way to encourage students to identify story elements. You'll follow a girl through a walk in her city, and enjoy the nature she observes along the way.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature	Joyce Sidman	Explore all of the ways that spirals are in a vibrant journey through nature. Sneak peak: they can be cuddly, clever, and bold.	Kinder - 3rd Grade
Tiny, Perfect Things	M.H. Clark	A little girl goes on a walk with her grandfather, and encounters all sorts of small wonders. The rhyming rhythm is an added bonus for youngsters.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
A Walk in the Forest	Maria Dek	This is a book about all the discoveries you can make if you have patient eyes on a forest walk. The story includes hidden treasures for kids to find.	Pre-K - 1st Grade
Wild	Emily Hughes	This is a book about a little girl who is raised by wild animals, and does not like it when human animals try to tame her. A quick story about the beauty in unruly things.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade



Seasons & Weather

Title	Author	Description	Reading Level
And Then It's Spring	Julie Fogliano	This is a book about how, for a while, everything is brown, and then that brown color turns hopeful, and then it turns into something else. A boy and his dog watch the seasons change.	Kinder - 2nd Grade
Awesome Autumn	Bruce Goldstone	This book is great for early elementary. The bright pictures and sensory engagements coexist with introductions to more advanced topics, like how chlorophyll works and how to identify trees.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
Cloudette	Tom Lichtenheld	This is a clever story about a little cloud who likes the hide-and-seek advantages of being small, but wonders if she can do big things. A sweet read for early elementary.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
Come On, Rain	Karen Hesse	This hypnotizing read evokes the senses as a little girl urges the sky to give a sweltering day some rain. When it does, dancing commences in the street.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
Fletcher and the Springtime Blossoms	Julia Rawlinson	This book is good for early elementary, featuring woodland creatures and plenty of prose. Fletcher the fox alerts everyone when he thinks he sees snowfall in Spring, but he soon sees that he's stumbled upon a different kind of magic. Like this story, make sure to check out the series.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
Geoffery Groundhog Predicts the Weather	Bruce Koscielniak	Geoffrey Groundhog predicts the weather without a hitch on his first groundhog day, but things get a little tricky the next year. This is a fun story to add some whimsy while you wait for Spring.	Pre-K - 3rd Grade
Goodbye Autumn, Hello Winter	Kenard Pak	This series is great for exploring seasonal transitions, and for introducing lessons about what the changes will bring. Readers will observe the sights and sounds of each season in this series.	Early Childhood - 2nd Grade
Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn			
In Summer/En Verano	Susana Madinabeiti Manso	In this board book, a little girl shares about the things she likes to do in summer, and asks readers what they like to do. This is a short, brightly-colored book for very little ones.	Early Childhood

Title	Author	Description	Reading Level
Leaf Man	Lois Ehlert	This is a great seasonal book for very young children. Fall leaves make up the illustrations of this story, transforming themselves into animals and scenes of all sorts. You'll wonder, where did leaf man go?	Early Childhood - 1st Grade
The Mitten	Alvin Tresselt	This Ukranian folktale is a fantastical winter story. A boy drops his mitten in the woods, and it becomes home to all kinds of critters looking for a cozy shelter.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
Over and Under the Snow	Kate Messner & Christopher Silas Neal	Exploring the snowy woods on skis, a little girl and her dad discover the animals that live over and under the snow in the winter time. This is a great book to introduce hibernation and other animal behaviors.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf	Lois Ehlert	We love this book so much that we have three copies in our library. In a bright collage, early learners will discover the story of one little seed and the journey it took to become the tree in a child's yard.	Early Childhood - Kinder
Skip Through the Seasons	Stella Blackstone	Each month has a different scene in this book, and each scene has a list of things for young readers to find. This is a fun, interactive story for young groups.	Early Childhood - Kinder
Sleep Tight Farm	Eugenie Doyle	This is a story about a family preparing their farm for winter. It's a nice seasonal read for young gardeners, and a good opportunity to talk about working together as the weather changes.	Early Childhood - Kinder
The Story Orchestra: Four Seasons in One Day	Jessica Courtney-Tickle	A girl goes on a magical journey through the seasons, and readers press musical notes to hear Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons" interwoven with the story.	Pre-K and Kinder
Tap the Magic Tree	Christie Matheson	This story asks little ones to use motion to bring the narrative to life. We love reading this book when we talk about seasons with our youngest gardeners.	Early Childhood - 2nd Grade
Time To Sleep	Denise Fleming	Bear smells winter in the air! In this tale, the animals all let each other know that the cold weather is coming, and prepare before a long winter's nap.	Pre-K and 1st Grade
Tree	Britta Teckentrup	This peek-through picture book shows one tree changing through the seasons. Rhymes narrate the story, and a single owl looks out at readers as everything changes around him. Like this book? Check out others in the series.	Early Childhood - 1st Grade
The Weather Girls	Aki	In this colorful book, a group of girls enjoy the seasons through different outdoor activities and sports. Enjoy this tale? Check out The Nature Girls books.	Preschool - 2nd Grade
We Planted a Tree	Diane Muldrow	This book is a joyful account of the things that happen when you plant a tree and it grows up. Take a look at families from around the world as they enjoy their trees.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade



Insects & Wildlife *nonfiction*

Title	Author	Description	Reading Level
A Beetle is Shy	Dianna Hutts Aston	Part of a nature-themed series, the eye-catching colors and abundance of examples in these books introduce kids to the vibrant worlds of beetles, eggs, and nests, and the animals that build them. All three books are ripe for encouraging art and construction projects.	Kinder - 5th Grade
An Egg is Quiet			
A Nest is Noisy			
Are You a Butterfly?	Judy Allen	This book series takes a close look at different insects, inviting kids to imagine what life would be like as different species. Detailed descriptions and pictures make these good elementary reads. These are our favorites of the series but there are many more great books to choose from.	Kinder - 3rd Grade
Are You a Ladybug?			
Are You a Bee?			
Around One Cactus: Owls, Bats and Leaping Rats	Anthony D. Fredericks	This book takes a look at all the wildlife that can live in and around a Saguaro Cactus. This is a great first look at the Sonoran desert in the southwest United States and northern Mexico.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
Bee Dance	Rick Chrustowski	This fun book invites kids to imagine themselves as bees! The dance is a language between worker bees to guide each other to nectar sources. This book is for little ones and best followed by your own bee dancing.	Early Childhood - 2nd Grade
City Bugs: Board Book	Antonia Banyard	This series is a great way to get young children thinking about the living things they can notice when they go for a walk around their neighborhood, explore a park, or wander through a community garden.	Early Childhood
City Critters: Board Book			
In the Trees, Honey Bees!	Lori Mortensen	This book combines simple rhymes with more in-depth facts about bees and where they live. A nice choice for independent reading or for sharing with a group.	Kinder - 3rd Grade
Indestructibles: Creep! Crawl!	Karen Pixton	Indestructibles are designed for hands-on babies! They can chew them, tug them, and throw them without doing any damage. Use the vivid pictures in these books to show very young gardeners different types of crawling and flying creatures.	Early Childhood
Indestructibles: Flutter! Fly!			
Some Bugs: Board Book	Angela Diterlizzi & Brendan Wenzel	This is an exploration of the behaviors of different bugs. You and the kids will both love the cute illustrations.	Pre-K and Kinder

Fiction Insects & Wildlife



Title	Author	Description	Reading Level
Alien Invaders/ Invasores Extraterrestres	Lynn Huggins- Cooper	One boy compares garden insects to the aliens he's seen on tv, and readers find that they have a lot in common.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
Bee and Me	Alison Jay	In this wordless story, a girl rescues a bee from a storm. In her care, it grows bigger and bigger, until it takes her on a flying adventure through the city and countryside. With this book, kids can create their own narrations.	Pre-K - 1st Grade
The Beeman	Laurie Krebs	We love this book! A rhyming story about a little boy whose grandfather is a beekeeper makes for a great introduction to bees and how they make honey.	Pre-K and Kinder
Bird Builds a Nest	Martin Jenkins	This book is a great introduction to birds for little ones. Read it before making your own bird nest crafts, or before fixing yourselves seed ball snacks so that you can eat like birds.	Early Childhood - 1st Grade
Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!	Bob Barner	This rhyming book celebrates all the bugs that you can find in a garden. Read it and ask your little ones which bug they're most excited to see!	Early Childhood
Diary of a Fly	Doreen Cronin and Harry Bliss	From the makers of Diary of Worm, this is another clever and funny book. Entries include: flight school and what it's like to have hundreds of siblings.	Pre-K and Kinder
Flashlight	Lizi Boyd	What nocturnal creatures come out at night? This wordless story uses a flashlight to explore the woods once the sun goes down.	Pre-K - 1st Grade
The Grouchy Ladybug	Eric Carle	We love this book so much that we've been reading it to introduce one of our favorite activities for years: making ladybug hats! One grouchy ladybug looks for bigger and bigger animals to fight, but ends up back where he started, sharing aphids with a friendlier bug.	Early Childhood
Hank's Big Day: The Story of a Bug	Evan Kuhlman	Hank is a pill bug. He lives under a rock. This is a cute story about Hank's busy routine and his friendship with a little girl named Amelia.	Pre-K and Kinder
Inchworm and a Half	Elinor J. Pinczes	An inch worm and her friends travel through the garden measuring everything in sight. This book is a great introduction to bringing math into the garden with measuring and fractions.	1st - 4th Grade

Title	Author	Description	Reading Level
Lola	Loufane Gladys Rosa-Mendoza	This is a book about a chicken named Lola who is not like the other chickens. In her search for love, she wanders bravely outside the safety fence. This is a fun read, especially if you have a coop in your garden.	Pre-K and Kinder
Mother Bruce	Ryan T. Higgins	This is a very funny book about a grumpy bear who tries to prepare a recipe he found on the internet, but ends up accidentally hatching himself some goslings. Read this book for a great time all around.	Pre-K - 1st Grade
My Awesome Summer by P. Mantis	Paul Meisel	A praying mantis tells you all about her summer, including the times she ate her siblings. This is a fun read for elementary students, and a nice way to introduce them to beneficial insects.	Pre-K - 3rd Grade
Ten Little Caterpillars	Bill Martin Jr. & Lois Ehlert	This big collage counts ten little caterpillars in a rhyming story. At the end, discover the names of each caterpillar and the butterfly that it becomes.	Early Childhood
Ten Little Ladybugs: Board Book	Melanie Gerth	Have little ones help you count down from ten with this rhyming story, and let them touch the little ladybugs that are raised from the pages.	Early Childhood
The Very Hungry Caterpillar: Board Book	Eric Carle	This classic is fun to read in the garden. Use it to introduce bugs and butterflies or just to bring wonder to little ones.	Early Childhood
The Very Quiet Cricket: Board Book	Eric Carle	Another great book from Eric Carle. A little cricket desperately wants to make a sound, but he can't quite figure out how! The moment he does, kids will delight in the actual chirp that comes from the book.	Early Childhood



Food & Culture



Title	Author	Description	Reading Level
Auntie Yang's Great Soybean Picnic	Ginnie Lo	This is a story about a weekend with aunts and cousins that turns into a discovery, which turns into family tradition, which turns into a long-awaited reunion. This is a great tale about food, Chinese customs, and family.	1st - 5th Grade
Bee-bim-Bop!	Linda Sue Park	This is a story about a little girl who excitedly helps her mom prepare a delicious traditional Korean dish. The rhymes and the pace make this a celebratory book with lots of energy.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
Berry Magic	Teri Sloat & Betty Huffmon	This is a story about how all the salmonberries, blueberries, cranberries, and raspberries came to the northern tundra. Read this book when it's berry season where you are!	Kinder - 4th Grade
Cora Cooks Pancit	Dorina K. Lazo Gilmore & Kristi Valiant	Cora desperately wants to be her mother's assistant chef, and when her older siblings head out for her day, she finally gets a chance to do the big-kid tasks. This story centers around pancit, a Filipino dish.	Pre-K - 3rd Grade
Family Pictures/ Cuadros de Familia	Carmen Lomas Garza	This book is filled with different family portraits, narrated in English and Spanish and inspired by a childhood in Kingsville, Texas. It's a great choice for older, bilingual groups, and a nice opportunity to talk about family traditions.	Kinder - 2nd Grade
The Fiesta of the Tortillas/La Fiesta de las Tortillas	Jorge Argueta	This is a story about how the rhythmic clapping of tortilla-making can bring people together. It's a nice read for introducing a cooking project, or for sharing your own stories about food and community.	Kinder - 2nd Grade
The First Strawberries	Joseph Bruchac	This is a Cherokee story about the first man and woman, and how the sun shone down to help remind them about the importance of kindness. Read during strawberry season, and then enjoy a strawberry treat!	Pre-K - 1st Grade
Gathering the Sun: An Alphabet in Spanish and English	Alma Flor Ada	With simple words and vibrant paintings this book places readers in the fields and orchards of a working farm. Simple poems in Spanish and English, one for each letter of the Spanish alphabet, describe the wonder nature and all who dedicate their lives to working the land.	Pre-K - 3rd Grade

Title	Author	Description	Reading Level
Green is a Chile Pepper: A Book of Colors	Roseanne Greenfield	This fun book goes on a journey through the rainbow, connecting colors to Mexican customs all in a rhyming chant that will mesmerize your little gardeners.	Pre-K and Kinder
Icy Watermelon/Sandía Fría	Mary Sue Galindo	A surprise summer treat turns into the sharing of family history in this sweet book. A great read for hot days in the garden. Pair it with some cold lemonade.	Kinder - 2nd Grade
Latkes and Applesauce	Fran Manushkin	This is a story about a family who doesn't have the potatoes or apples to make their favorite Hanukkah meal...until they receive some help from two new friends who they take in from the cold. This is a great holiday story for older students.	1st - 4th Grade
Rice & Rocks	Sandra Richards	Giovanni's friends are coming over for dinner, and he worries they won't like his grandmother's Rice & Rocks, a traditional Jamaican dish. His Auntie comes to the rescue and takes him on a magical journey across the globe, visiting places where people eat rice and rocks. This story celebrates the delicious similarities that bring us all together.	Pre-K - 3rd Grade
Right this Very Minute: A Table-to-Farm Book About Food and Farming	Lisl H. Detlefsen	What's that you say? You're hungry? Right this very minute? Then you need a farmer. This delicious tale celebrates farming and how food gets to our tables.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
Salsa, a Cooking Poem/Salsa, Un Poema Para Cocinar	Jorge Argueta	This illustrated poem is a recipe with lots of room for imagination. Onions become maracas and hot green chiles turn us into flashing fireflies. This is a wonderful way to introduce a garden salsa cooking activity.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
Thank you, Omu!	Oge Mora	Everyone in the neighborhood dreams of a taste of Omu's delicious stew! This is a heartwarming story of how one Grandmother and her Nigerian soup encourage sharing and community.	Preschool - 3rd Grade
Thanking the Moon	Grace Lin	This book is about the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival, and it's a great story to read with young kids when the harvest festivities begin!	Pre-K and Kinder
Time for Cranberries	Lisl H. Detlefsen	This book introduces readers to Sam and his family as they tend to their cranberry bogs and show us how the fruit is harvested. It's a story of modern family farming in action, showing readers where their food comes from but mostly delighting them along the way.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
Too Many Tamales	Gary Soto	When Maria thinks she's lost her mom's ring in the tamales that she helped her make, she and her cousins decide that they have to eat their way through the batch until they find it. This is a heartwarming Christmas story to read around the holidays.	Kinder - 3rd Grade

Farm to Table

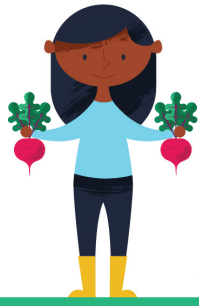


Title	Author	Description	Reading Level
10 Hungry Rabbits: Board Book	Anita Lobel	This counting book is helpful for focusing young groups, and the numbers are a great way to invite them to join in the storytelling.	Early Childhood
Apples	Gail Gibbons	A great Fall read, this book illustrates how apples grow with some introductory plant science concepts, and follows the fruits on their journey through time and the seasons. This is also a nice choice for talking about the definition of a fruit.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
Apple-Picking Time	Michele Benoit Slawson & Deborah Kogan Ray	This is an apple-picking story for older students. A little girl and her family drive out to the orchards, where they know they'll find a "Pickers Wanted" sign. The day includes lunch-time dancing and full bins of fruit.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
Blue Potatoes, Orange Tomatoes: How to Grow a Rainbow Garden	Rosalind Creasy & Ruth Heller	Brought to you by the Sierra Club, this is a beautiful guide to growing a rainbow garden for kids. Read about growing blue potatoes, orange tomatoes, yellow zucchini, and more. When it's harvest time, try out a recipe for each of your fresh foods.	2nd - 5th Grade
Dragons Love Tacos	Adam Rubin & Daniel Salmieri	Did you know that dragons love tacos? They love tacos of all shapes and sizes, but they hate spicy toppings, so be very careful.	Pre-K1 - 1st Grade
Eat, Leo! Eat!	Caroline Adderson	When Leo refuses to eat a beautiful, handmade lunch, his grandmother tells a story to inspire him. Each Sunday afternoon, the story builds, and Leo eats.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
Eating the Alphabet	Lois Ehlert	We love to read this alphabet book with our young gardeners. As you go through the letters, you can look at the colorful pictures and decide what looks yummy to you. Then, as a group, make your own versions.	Early Childhood
Eating the Rainbow/ Que Sabroso Arco Iris: Board Book	Star Bright Books	This bilingual book is available in varied language combinations. Explore different foods by color, and switch back and forth between languages!	Early Childhood
Feast for Ten	Cathryn Falwell	Take a journey through the supermarket and the recipes as one African-American family prepares a feast! Engage your little readers in counting aloud with this sweet tale.	Early Childhood

Title	Author	Description	Reading Level
Fruits and Vegetables/Frutas y Vegetales: Board Book	G. Rosa-Mendoza & Linda Holt Ayriss	This is a great picture book for bilingual groups. Explore the different fruits and vegetables with very young children in Spanish and English.	Early Childhood
Gazpacho for Nacho	Tracey C. Kyle	Nacho only eats gazpacho, but when his mom helps him become a little chef, he can't wait to try new recipes! This rhyming story is full of fun and charm.	Kinder - 4th Grade
Growing Vegetable Soup	Lois Ehlert	Like Planting a Rainbow, this book resembles a sample of paints, and brings the same joy. Grow a vegetable soup garden with your little ones!	Early Childhood
How Did That Get in my Lunchbox	Chris Butterworth	This book is a fun and colorful exploration of the journey that different foods take before they end up in our lunch boxes. This is a great way to start a conversation about the energy it takes to produce and transport the things we eat.	Kinder - 3rd Grade
I Will Never Not Ever Eat a Tomato	Lauren Child	This is a book about a boy who has to feed his picky sister dinner. She won't eat carrots, peas, potatoes, or tomatoes, but she might eat orange twiglets, green drops, cloud fluff, and moon squirts.	Pre-K - 3rd Grade
Indestructibles: Bebe Vamos a Comer!/ Baby Let's Eat!	Stephan Lomp	Safe to hand to babies, this book has pictures of all kinds of foods. Each turn of the page reveals a new color, and every food is labeled in Spanish and English.	Early Childhood
Monster's Don't Eat Broccoli	Barbara Jean Hicks & Sue Hendra	In this colorful, rhyming book, monsters list out all the things they'd rather eat instead of broccoli. Then, they find that the big trees they love might be vegetables after all.	Pre-K - 2nd Grade
Mrs. Peanuckle's Fruit Alphabet: Board Book	Mrs. Peanuckle	With vibrant illustrations, these alphabet books are wonderful to introduce foods, recipes, and fun garden reads to little ones! Like these books? Check out the rest of the series.	Early Childhood
Mrs. Peanuckle's Vegetable Alphabet: Board Book			
On the Farm, At the Market	G. Brian Karas	This book is a great way to start thinking about where our food comes from. The story moves through a vegetable farm, a dairy, and a mushroom farm, and then explores the market where all of the farmers sell their wares.	1st - 4th Grade
Rainbow Stew	Cathryn Falwell	On a rainy day, Grandpa takes three siblings out into the garden to look for rainbow stew ingredients. Full of sounds, rhymes, and fun, this book is great for young ones.	Early Childhood - 1st Grade

Title	Author	Description	Reading Level
Scratch and Sniff Food: Board Book	DK Publishing	Let the little ones explore the smells of different foods with this engaging book! A nice choice for independent exploration	Early Childhood
Sunday at the Farmer's Market	Tom Pew	Every Sunday, one family goes to the farmers' market. This book tells the story of the exciting time that they share together.	Pre-K - 1st Grade
Watermelon Madness	Taghreed Najjar	Noura wants to eat only watermelon, and keep all the watermelon for herself. When she hides one under her bed, she dreams a dream that changes her mind.	Early Childhood - 2nd Grade
We're Going to the Farmer's Market: Board Book	Stefan Page	This rhyming board book goes from market to kitchen to dinner time. It's great to read with little ones or for letting toddlers explore on their own.	Early Childhood
What's So Yummy?	Robie H. Harris	This is a book about a family who enjoys a picnic at the park. Read this story about where they get their healthy food, and how they like to enjoy it with exercise and plenty of time outside.	Early Childhood - Kinder
Yum! MmMm! Qué Rico!	Pat Mora	Filled with colors and sounds, this book is a meditation on different foods we love, coupled with information about those foods' origins.	2nd - 4th Grade





Real Life Heroes

Title	Author	Description	Reading Level
Alice Waters and the Trip to Delicious	Jacqueline Briggs Martin	This is the story of Alice Waters, the woman who founded Chez Panisse in Berkeley California, and then helped start the edible schoolyard movement. Readers can follow her journey from chef to food activist.	1st- 4th Grade
Chef Roy Choi	Jacqueline Briggs Martin	This is the story of Chef Roy Choi, the man who made Korean tacos in Los Angeles and then helped start the food truck renaissance. Lots of graffiti art pop out at young gardeners when you read this story.	2nd - 5th Grade
Dolores Huerta: A Hero to Migrant Workers	Sarah Warren	This is the story of Dolores Huerta and the extraordinary battle she helped wage to ensure fair and safe work places for migrant workers. The powerful text and vibrant illustrations brings her amazing journey to life. A timeline and resources for teachers are included.	1st - 5th Grade
Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table	Jacqueline Briggs Martin	This is the story of Farmer Will, the man who played professional basketball and then started Growing Power, a city farm in Milwaukee that helped shape the urban growing movement.	2nd - 5th Grade
Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez	Kathleen Krull	This story starts when Chavez is a child in Arizona, and moves all the way through to California, where he mobilizes fruit pickers and organizes a labor movement. This is a great introduction to Chavez's work, and a look at the history of farm labor for young gardeners.	1st - 4th Grade
In the Garden with Dr. Carver	Susan Grigsby	This book is from the perspective of Sally, a little girl who steps out of church to find that George Washington Carver has come to town. He shows her and the people in her town how to heal the soil after the cotton crops feasted on all the good nutrients.	2nd - 4th Grade
The Tree Lady: The True Story of How One Tree-loving Woman Changed a City Forever	H. Joseph Hopkins	This is an illustrated story of Kate Sessions, the first woman to graduate from the University of California with a degree in science, and the woman who shaped the landscape architecture of San Diego.	Kinder - 5th Grade
Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story From Africa	Jeanette Winter	This is the story of Wangari Maathai, the Nobel Peace Prize winner and environmental icon who started the Green Belt Movement in Kenya. Read this book to students to learn about the many, many trees she planted with the help of the women of her country.	Pre-K - 3rd Grade

Art Power



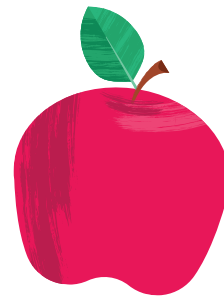
Title	Author	Description	Reading Level
Hey, Wall: A Story of Art and Community	Susan Verde	Around a wall, a community bustles with life: music, dancing, laughing. But the wall is forgotten and bleak. Ángel decides to change that. But he can't do it alone. This picture book celebrates the power that art has to bring a community together.	Pre-K - 3rd Grade
The Magical Garden of Claude Monet	Lauren Anholt	In this story, we learn about the painter through the eyes of a visiting child. This is an approachable narrative that invites us to consider the work that this artist made while being inspired by the nature around him.	1st - 3rd Grade
Magic Trash: A Story of Tyree Guyton and His Art	J.H. Shapiro	This picture book biography of Tyree Guyton, an urban environmental artist, shows how he transformed his decaying neighborhood into the Heidelberg Project, an interactive sculpture park.	Kinder - 3rd Grade
Maybe Something Beautiful	F. Isabel Campoy	This is the story of a little girl who lives in the heart of a gray city, but sees the potential for beauty in everything. Soon, that beauty transforms her entire neighborhood.	Pre-K - 3rd Grade
My Name is Georgia	Jeanette Winter	As a young girl, Georgia O'Keeffe viewed the world in her own way. This book tells the story of O'Keeffe, her life and how her love for the deserts of New Mexico inspired her paintings.	Kinder - 3rd Grade
Summer Birds: The Butterflies of Maria Merian	Margarita Engle	In the Middle Ages, people believed that insects were evil, born from mud in a process called spontaneous generation. Maria Merian was only a child, but she disagreed. She watched carefully as caterpillars became butterflies and moths. Maria studied their life cycle, and made vibrantly beautiful paintings.	Kinder - 3rd Grade
Van Gogh and the Sunflowers	Lauren Anholt	In this book young Camille befriends a strange visitor to his small town, and one day he brings this man a gift of bright, beautiful sunflowers. The man is the artist Vincent van Gogh, and the sunflowers quickly become the subject of a magnificent painting.	1st - 4th Grade
Willow	Denise Brennan-Nelson	Miss Hawthorn's room is neat and tidy, not a pencil or paintbrush is out of place. And she likes trees that are colored green and apples that are painted red. Willow doesn't color inside the lines, and she sees pink trees and blue apples. In this book, we learn that magical things can happen when our imaginations is allowed to run wild.	1st - 3rd Grade



Wonder

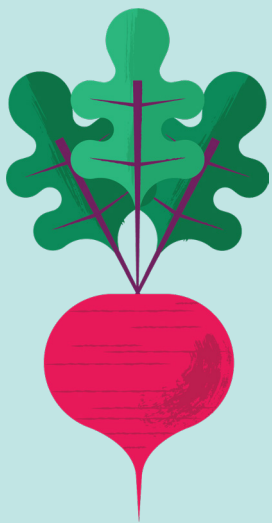
Title	Author	Description	Reading Level
All the World	Liz Garton Scanlon & Marla Frazee	This book might make you teary. With rhyming sounds and sights, the narrative keeps coming back to tell us: all the all the world is... Read this with youngsters for a comforting storytime that you'll all enjoy.	Early Childhood
He's Got the Whole World in His Hands	Kadir Nelson	This is a beautiful, illustrated version of the classic spiritual that became a classic song. Use it to sing together with your young gardeners.	Early Childhood - 1st Grade
If I Had a Little Dream	Nina Laden	This is a lulling book about a little girl that would name her little home love and her little pond wonder. Read this to youngsters who need a calm moment or to introduce exploratory play	Pre-K - 1st Grade
In the Attic	Hiawyn Oram	This is the story of a little boy who has tons of toys, but climbs into the attic because he's bored. There, he finds all sorts of wonders.	Pre-K - 1st Grade
Inside My Imagination	Marta Arteaga	This is an illustrated look at the whole world that one little girl has when she opens her imagination inside a small room. Read this when you're stuck inside on a rainy day, or to introduce a creative project.	Kinder - 2nd Grade
The Digger and the Flower	Joseph Kuefler	This is a sweet tale about a digger who works in a group of big trucks to build a city. When he finds a little flower, he loves it, cares for it, and finds a way to save it when another truck cuts it down. This is a nice story to introduce the magic of seeds to young children.	Early Childhood
The Little Red Fort	Brenda Maier & Sonia Sanchez	This is a fantastic story about a little girl who wants to build a fort. When her brothers laugh at her plan, she decides to build it herself, and then she does.	Pre-K - 1st Grade
When We Go Walking	Cari Best & Kyrsten Brooker	This book is about all of the wonderful treasures you can find when you go walking and rambling on, and the new treasures you can make out of what you found!	1st - 3rd Grade

Educator Resources



Title	Author	Description	Reading Level
A Little Bit of Dirt: 55+ Science and Art Activities to Reconnect Children with Nature	Asia Citro	A City Blossoms favorite, this book holds lots of inspiration for nature play activities to offer to curious youngsters.	Early Childhood Activities
Fresh City Kids Recipe Book	Lauren VonDerPool	This recipe book is brought to you by a summer program based right here in DC. Try out the recipes that the people of Fresh City Kids, a healthy living non-profit, love to cook with their participants!	Elementary
Garden Gastronomy/ Gastronomía del Jardín	City Blossoms	Our cookbook is a staple resource for our garden programming. We use it to cook with kids of all ages. The recipes are simple, healthy, and delicious.	Kid-Friendly Recipes
Honest Pretzels: And 64 Other Amazing Recipes for Kids Who Love to Cook	Mollie Katzen	From the creators of Moosewood Cookbook, this cookbook is full of recipes that you can easily make with kids. The best part is that it's written for young students to follow along or even use to be lead chef.	Kid-Friendly Recipes
Loose Parts 3: Inspiring Culturally Sustainable Environments	Lisa Daly & Miriam Beloglovsky	This book is a guide to incorporating loose parts for creative and exploratory play along with cultural competence. The authors outline how to create a space so children can practice democracy and embrace diversity through open-ended play. Like this book? Check out the rest of the series.	Early Childhood Curriculum
Natural Playscapes: Creating Outdoor Play Environments for the Soul	Rusty Keeler	This is a guide to creating natural playspaces. It includes different models, project ideas, and methods for getting the community involved in builds. At the back, there's a workbook that invites you to brainstorm your resources and to advocate for your playspace.	Guide to Early Childhood Spaces
Nature Preschools and Forest Kindergartens	David Sobel	This book is a guide for creating, or incorporating elements of, a nature-based early-childhood program. It includes two case studies, a glimpse at the pedagogy, and practical advice for operation.	Early Childhood/ Kindergarten Pedagogy
Our First Harvest/ Nuestra Primera Cosecha	City Blossoms	Our Pre-K curriculum is another City Blossoms staple. The activities range in season and subject, and they're all hands-on. Expect lots of art, some opportunities to taste, and plenty of ways to get kids' hands dirty.	Preschool Curriculum

Title	Author	Description	Reading Level
Pretend Soup and Other Real Recipes: A Cookbook for Pre-K	Mollie Katzen & Ann Henderson	Another book from the brains behind Moosewood, these recipes are written with the youngest of cooks in mind. Use it to bring your little ones into meal prep.	Kid-Friendly Recipes
Seasons of Play: Natural Environments of Wonder	Rusty Keeler	This book explores the backyards of three home-based preschools through the seasons, illustrating how children use the simple outdoor spaces for play. With maps of each site included, this book is a practical guide for anyone who wants to turn an everyday space into a wonderland.	Early Childhood Pedagogy
Sowing the Seeds of Wonder: Discovering the Garden in Early-Childhood Education	Amy Carlson, Erika Perloff & Jill Begin	This is LifeLab's early-childhood curriculum. Each activity comes broken down into description, background, materials, preparation, activity, tying it together, and digging deeper. This is an accessible and go-to tool.	Early Childhood Curriculum
Sunflower Houses: A Book for Children and Their Grown-Ups	Sharon Lovejoy	A garden activity book with extra whimsy, this guide includes ideas for creating a pizza patch and brewing a pot of moth broth.	Early Childhood Activities
The Book of Gardening Projects for Kids: 101 Ways to Get Kids Outside, Dirty, and Having Fun	Whitney Cohen & John Fisher	From the directors of LifeLab, this book includes recipes, activities, garden festivities, and down-to-earth advice about how to engage kids outside. This is a great resource for both educators and families alike. Like this resource? Check out LifeLab's other wonderful resources.	Garden-based Activities
The Garden Classroom: Hands-On Activities in Math, Science, Literacy, and Art	Cathy James	The lessons in this book are broken into six sections: Garden Basics, Play & Imagination, Reading & Writing, Science & Math, Arts & Crafts, and Garden Recipes. Our copy is full of bookmarks because we love these activities.	Elementary Curriculum
The Growing Classroom: Garden-Based Science	Roberta Jaffe & Gary Appel	This is LifeLab's elementary curriculum. Like its early-childhood counterpart, this book includes accessible, step-by-step lesson plans that are tried-and-true. You can also cross-check activities with education standards through LifeLab's online database	Elementary Curriculum
Wonderplay, Too!	Fretta Reitzes & Beth Teitelman	Written for ages 3 to 6, this book is brought to you by the 92nd Street Y. It's full of ideas for play, along with some expert advice for engaging young children.	Early-Childhood Activities



City Blossoms

kid-driven . community engaging . creative green spaces

516 Kennedy Street, NW Washington DC 20011

202.882.2628 info@cityblossoms.org

www.cityblossoms.org