

# Growing Vegetable Soup

Author & Illustrator: **Lois Ehlert**  
Harcourt Inc.

## Materials

Magazines about gardening and plants, brown or green construction paper, glue, paper towels, plastic sandwich bags, tape, bean and other plant seeds.

## Activities

Let the children cut out plant and planting tool pictures from magazines and glue them on brown or green construction paper to make their very own vegetable garden. They might label their plants and tools like the author did.

Grow a window garden. Show the children how to wet a paper towel, fold it up, put it inside a sandwich bag and then position some bean seeds between the paper towel and the side of the bag. Close the baggies and tape them to a sunny window. Remind the children to check every day and to keep the paper towel moist. Watch the bean seeds sprout! How many days did it take? Try it with different types of seeds to see what plants sprout more quickly.

Children might enjoy growing a few vegetables in the classroom or outside their school or home. If possible, see the plants through to maturity, dig up the vegetables and make vegetable soup!

For older children, provide some different books about a children's garden project so they can learn how other children grow gardens (see <http://www.libraryjam.org/booklists>).



# Loretta: Ace Pinky Scout

Author & Illustrator: **Keith Graves**  
Scholastic Inc.

## Materials

Paper, pencil, crayons or markers.  
Optional: binder or folder for class book.

## Activities

Ask the children to draw a picture of things they do very well, even though they may not do them perfectly. Older children may be able to write about what they do well, instead, and then add

## Joel Says

*Before the book is read, ask...*

What do you think the title means?  
Have you ever grown vegetables?  
Do you have a place to grow plants?

*Stop during the book and ask...*

What kinds of tools do you need to grow plants? How big of a hole do you think you have to dig to plant your seeds? What do you think the plants need to help them grow?

*After reading the book, ask...*

What step-by-step ways did the book use to help you learn how to grow your plants? Have you ever done a project with your dad or mom?



illustrations. Use the pictures to discuss the saying "practice makes perfect."

Students may like to make class books. Each student illustrates and/or writes one page showing what they do best or worst, or what they would like to learn to do this year. Combine the pages into a class book. Add this to a classroom collection of books for silent reading and shared reading, and for checking out of the classroom and taking home to share with family.

Discuss with the children the importance of trying new things more than once - even if they do a horrible job the first time. Ask them to demonstrate how they can hop, run, skip or whistle. Point out that these are things they may do very well, but perhaps not perfectly all of the time.

## Joel Says

*Before the book is read, ask...*

Are you perfect in everything you do? Are you willing to try new things?

*Stop during the book and ask...*

By looking at the illustrations on page 7, what do you think "bench-pressed" means?

*After reading the book, ask...*

What does this saying mean: "When at first you don't succeed, try, try again"?