

# LEARNING TIME

## Garden Stew

By **Carrie Gallasch and Zoe Ingram**

*There's nothing more delicious than a garden stew, full of twigs, gum nuts and just a sprinkle of dirt! This delightful rhyming read is full of fun and friendly characters who just love getting their paws dirty! The illustrations are stunning and celebrate being outdoors and all the wonderful things that nature play has to offer*



### Key Message for Parents | Children are born ready to use and learn mathematics

There are many daily activities which offer an opportunity to learn about numbers!

Cooking (and pretend cooking) is one of them – this month's story, *Garden Stew* is an ideal book to inspire some counting. The illustrations offer lots of opportunity to practice counting. Model one-to-one correspondence counting by placing your finger on the each item in the pictures as you count.

Counting books are perfect for teaching this concept too. As you count with your child, touch each picture or object and encourage him or her to touch and count as well.

### Australian Early Years Learning Framework | Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners

We can help children become confident and involved learners by:

- Providing open ended learning challenges which are age appropriate
- Beginning with a child's own knowledge and scaffolding their learning
- Being positive and enthusiastic learners ourselves, sharing the joy of learning and discovery
- Being aware that all children learn differently, that the learning process involves persistence, problem solving, investigation, questioning and the capacity to transfer knowledge from one context to another

### Welcome

Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their children.

Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

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### Welcome Song (or your preferred song)

Have the words available as a handout or written on a board or butcher's paper for the adults to read and join in.

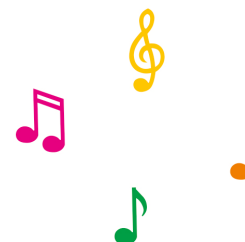
#### Good Morning

*Good morning to you*

*Good morning to you*

*Good morning everybody*

*and welcome to you!*



### Song

#### Let's Make Garden Stew (to the tune of Farmer in the Dell)

*Welcome everyone – today's story is called Garden Stew by Carrie Gallasch and Zoe Ingram. If you were going to make some garden stew, what would you put in it?*

On a large piece of paper record each child's response. Use these answers for a recipe for Garden Stew and as the basis for the song.

*Let's make garden stew, let's make garden stew (stirring action with arm)*

*Hi-ho the derry-o – let's make garden stew!*

*First we add the leaves, first we add the leaves (pretend to add leaves from tree)*

*Hi-ho the derry-o, first we add the leaves!*

*Next we add 2 sticks, next we add 2 sticks – hi ho etc*

Continue using recipe as created and don't forget to use lots of actions!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJb1ozl7TpU>



### Before Reading

Make sure everyone has got their wriggles out and is sitting comfortably, legs crossed and hands in laps. *Who has a garden where they live? What kind of things do you like doing in the garden? Have you ever made a pretend stew or potion in your garden?! What did you use?*

Introduce the book by firstly identifying the title, author and illustrator. Next ask your listeners what they can see on the cover!

You may also like to point out that there is a snail to find on every page! Can you find them all?

### During Reading

Carrie Gallasch's text is simple with an easy to read rhythm. *Let's make garden stew* is repeated throughout the book, which gives listeners a line to join in with. It always comes after a word which rhymes with stew, so is easy to predict when it is coming.

There is also lots of opportunity to add actions while telling the story. For example you could *sprinkle*, *sprinkle* with fingers, and *pluck* and of course *stir* the delicious stew!

### After Reading

Did you find the snail on every page?! Go back to have a look and talk about what the snail (and sometimes his friends) are doing.

Try to recall what went into the Garden Stew. Ask open-ended questions to prompt children if they need it.

Use an old pot and spoon and pretend to make *garden stew* with the children. Have a selection of leaves, flowers, sticks, feathers and gumnuts available. You could use a dice to decide how many sticks, leaves or petals to put in!

### Song and Rhymes

There are lots of songs and rhymes that celebrate our gardens and being outside.

- *Mary, Mary Quite Contrary*
- *Round and Round the Garden*
- *Here is the Bee Hive*
- *Incy Wincy Spider*
- *Lavender's Blue*
- *Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush*
- *Jack and Jill went up the Hill*
- *Oranges and Lemons*
- *English Country Garden*

### Extension Ideas

- Create a sensory table with natural materials- add some plastic bugs and insects
- Go outside for a special adventure to find ie. 2 leaves, 1 stick etc
- You could give children a treasure hunt list which shows in pictures and numbers what to find and how many!
- Go outside and find some snails, ants, caterpillars or other harmless insects. Where do they live? What do they eat?

### STEM Focus

STEM activities with toddlers can be simple and part of your everyday routines. There are lots of patterns, shapes and colours in the story, providing the perfect introduction to mathematical concepts. Re-read the story and go through each page finding all the circles, squares, triangles etc. Can you find the snail on every page? Count how many there are. Is there something your child shows an interest in? Spend time talking about it and answering their questions.

### Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. The Little Big Book Club suggests the following books to support learning in this area. If your library has copies, make them available for families to borrow or include them in your story time session.

For more stories to share, we recommend the following titles:

- **The Very Hungry Caterpillar** by Eric Carle
- **Animals in my Garden** by Bronwyn Houston
- **Wombat Stew** by Marcia K Vaughn and Pamela Lofts
- **Let's Count Goats** by Mem Fox and Jan Thomas

An Activity Time for this book is available to download for FREE from our website. This is a great resource to share with families, you are welcome to print and distribute as necessary.

### Goodbye Song

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child's name in the place of 'you' as it develops a more personal relationship between yourself, the child and the family.

Sung to the tune of (Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush) or your preferred choice.

### Goodbye

*This is the way we say goodbye (use a waving action) Say goodbye, say goodbye*

*This is the way we say goodbye*

*To all our library friends (or) (to our friend.....)!*