

Farmer Pete's Teaching Tools

THE TIRED LITTLE TURTLE

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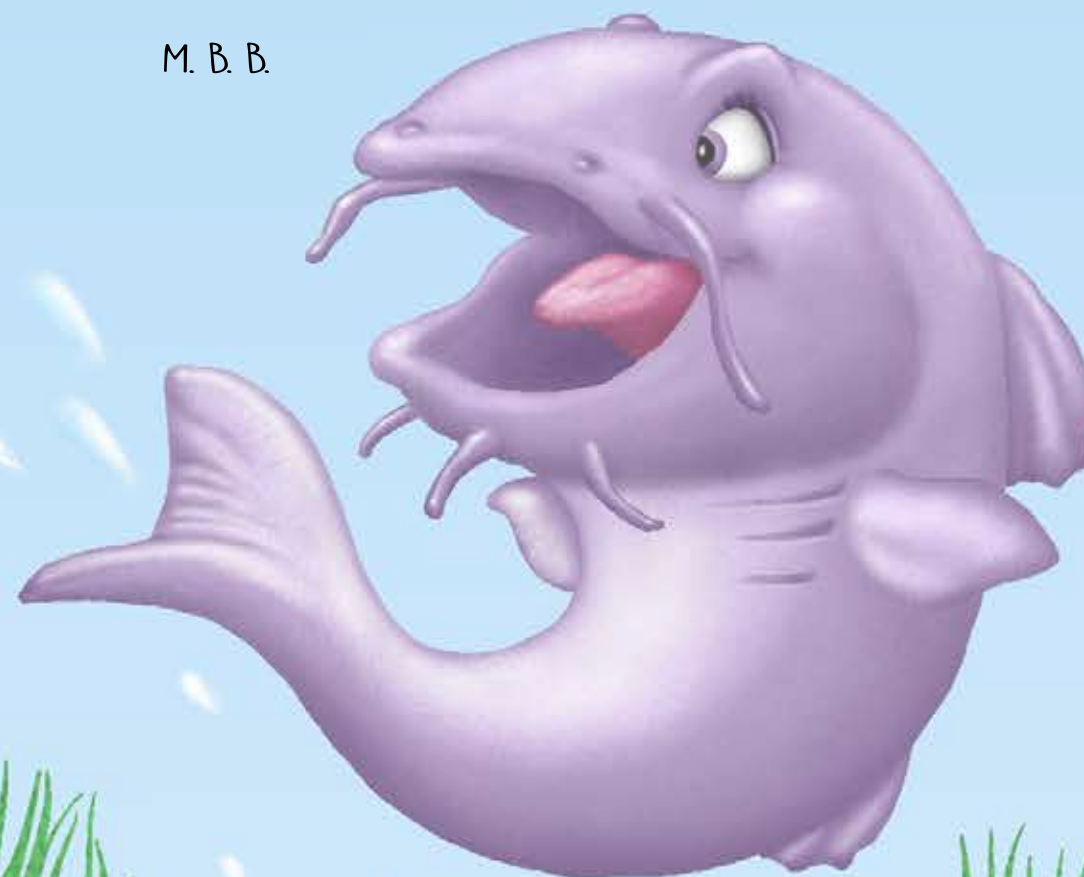
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THIS STORY
IS DEDICATED TO
ANYONE WHO HAS EVER STARTED
THEIR DAY WISHING THEY WERE SOMEBODY ELSE.
BEING HAPPY IN YOUR OWN SKIN ISN'T ALWAYS EASY,
BUT IT IS ESSENTIAL TO TRUE HAPPINESS.

M. B. B.





It was a **hot** summer morning and Farmer Pete woke up to the sound of his rooster crowing.

“Cock-a-doodle-do,” it crowed.

He couldn’t wait to start the day and get busy in his garden.

At the same time Farmer Pete was waking up, Little Turtle woke up to the sound of his mother's voice.

"Wake up, Little Turtle. It's time to get up. All kinds of new adventures are waiting for you."

But Little Turtle didn't feel like getting up. He wanted to roll over and go back to sleep. But rolling over for a turtle isn't the smartest thing to do. So Little Turtle woke up, poked his head out of his shell, and pretended to be excited about the new day.





After he finished his breakfast, he asked his mother an important question.

"Mommy, do I always have to be a turtle?"

"That is a silly question, his mother replied. You should be **proud** to be a turtle."

"I'm just **tired** of being a turtle," he mumbled in a shameful voice.

"How come?" his mother asked.

"Well, turtles are so **slow**. My friends always pass me by," he said. "And, I am always last."

"That is just nonsense," said his mother.

"I'm so tired of carrying around this **awful** shell," Little Turtle complained.

"When you get older you will understand the importance of that shell. Now, you go on and play. I will call you when it is time for lunch."

Little Turtle headed down the road looking for an adventure. He soon came upon his buddy, Rabbit.

"What's wrong, Little Turtle?" asked Rabbit. "You look kind of sad."

"I'm not sad. I'm tired — tired of being a turtle," he said, sounding upset. "I never get to do anything exciting or important."

"Yes, I see your point," boasted Rabbit. "You can't scurry through the woods as fast as a jackrabbit can."

And off Rabbit ran.





Little Turtle continued on his way, when he spotted his old friend, Owl.

"Hello, Little Turtle," spoke Owl. "Why the long face?"

"I'm just tired of being a turtle, a **slow boring** turtle," he said.

"If only you could fly like me, you might view things differently."

And up Owl flew to the highest tree.

Little Turtle slowly continued on until he came to Farmer Pete's pond. He tried to relax and take a nap. But soon he was rudely interrupted by the splashing sound of his friend, Catfish.

"Why not join me for a swim?" said Catfish.

"I don't want to!" snapped Little Turtle.

"Why not?" asked Catfish.

"I'm just tired of being a turtle with a shell," he said sadly. "And besides, I'm looking for an adventure and don't have time for such nonsense."

"Good luck," Catfish said as he splashed his friend and swam away.





Little Turtle decided to head back for lunch. The walk back seemed so long. He suddenly spotted his old friend Rabbit sitting by the side of the road.

“What are you doing Rabbit?” said Little Turtle. “You look tired.”

“Fox was chasing me and I’m just too **hot** and **tired** to go any further. I need to get home for lunch.”

“Hop up on my shell, and I will carry you home,” offered Little Turtle.

“Wow, that would be great, but I doubt that you can carry me,” remarked Rabbit.

“Hop on my shell, you’ll see,” said Little Turtle.

So Rabbit hopped up on Little Turtle’s shell and made himself comfortable.

“You’re **lucky** to have that shell,” said Rabbit.

“I am pretty lucky,” said Little Turtle.





It wasn't long before they arrived at Rabbit's hole. Rabbit hopped off and thanked his friend for the ride.

Then all of a sudden, the sky grew dark. The wind started to blow and the rain fell from the sky.

"What are you going to do, Little Turtle?" Rabbit asked anxiously. "I don't think you can come down my hole! And you have such a long way back home," he added.

"Don't worry, Rabbit. I'll be fine. I have my shell. It is my home," smiled Little Turtle.

“But what if Fox comes back?” Rabbit asked worriedly.

“He won’t even notice me,” Little Turtle reassured him. “Turtles blend in very nicely with nature,” he added.

So Little Turtle pulled his head into his COZY shell and waited for the rain to stop.





Finally the storm ended. He poked his head out and finished his walk back. When he saw his mother, he greeted her with a **big** smile.

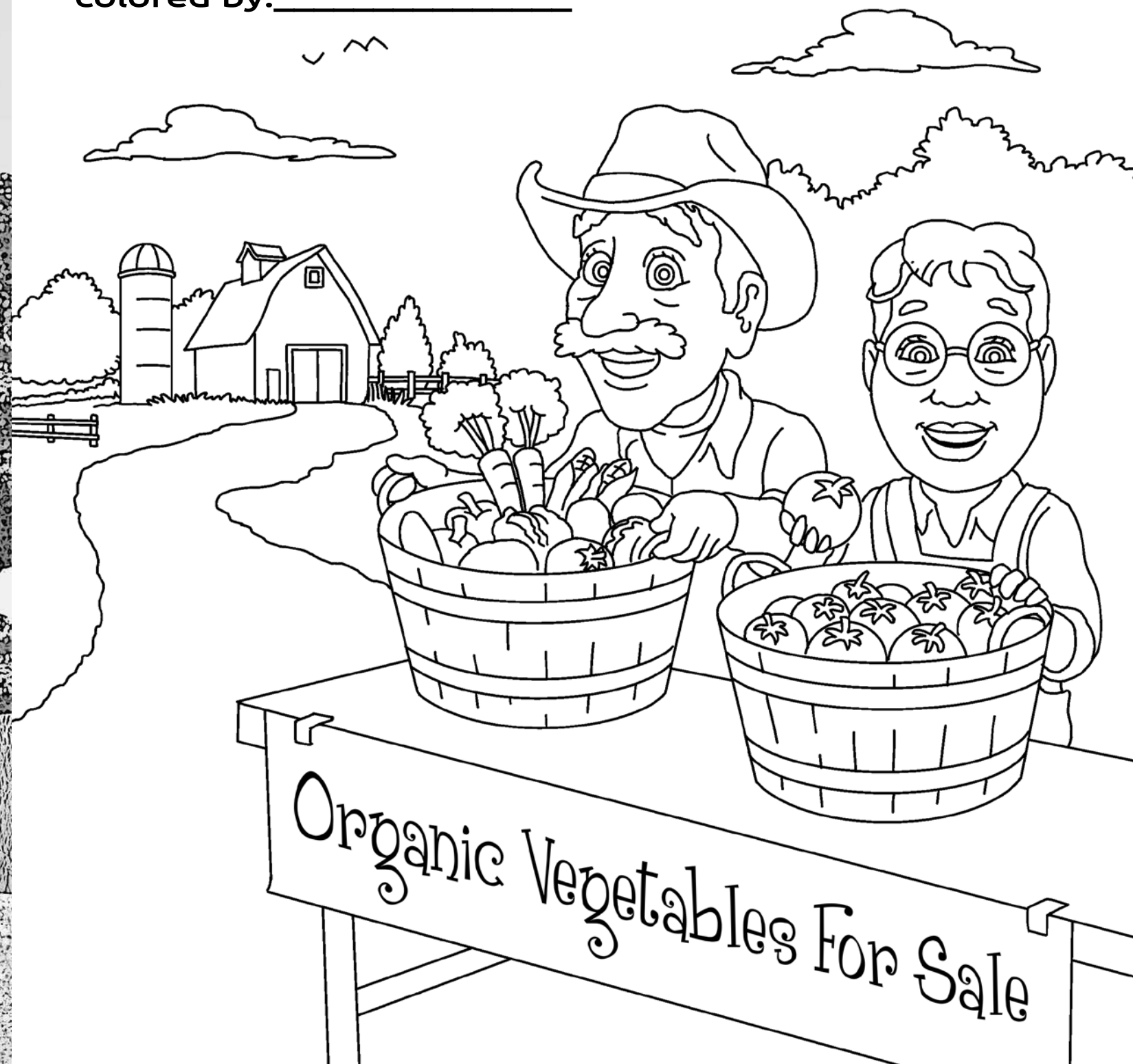
"I guess being a turtle is **okay** after all," he said.

"But what about that **awful** shell of yours?" she questioned.

"I'm **keeping** it," Little Turtle said **proudly**.



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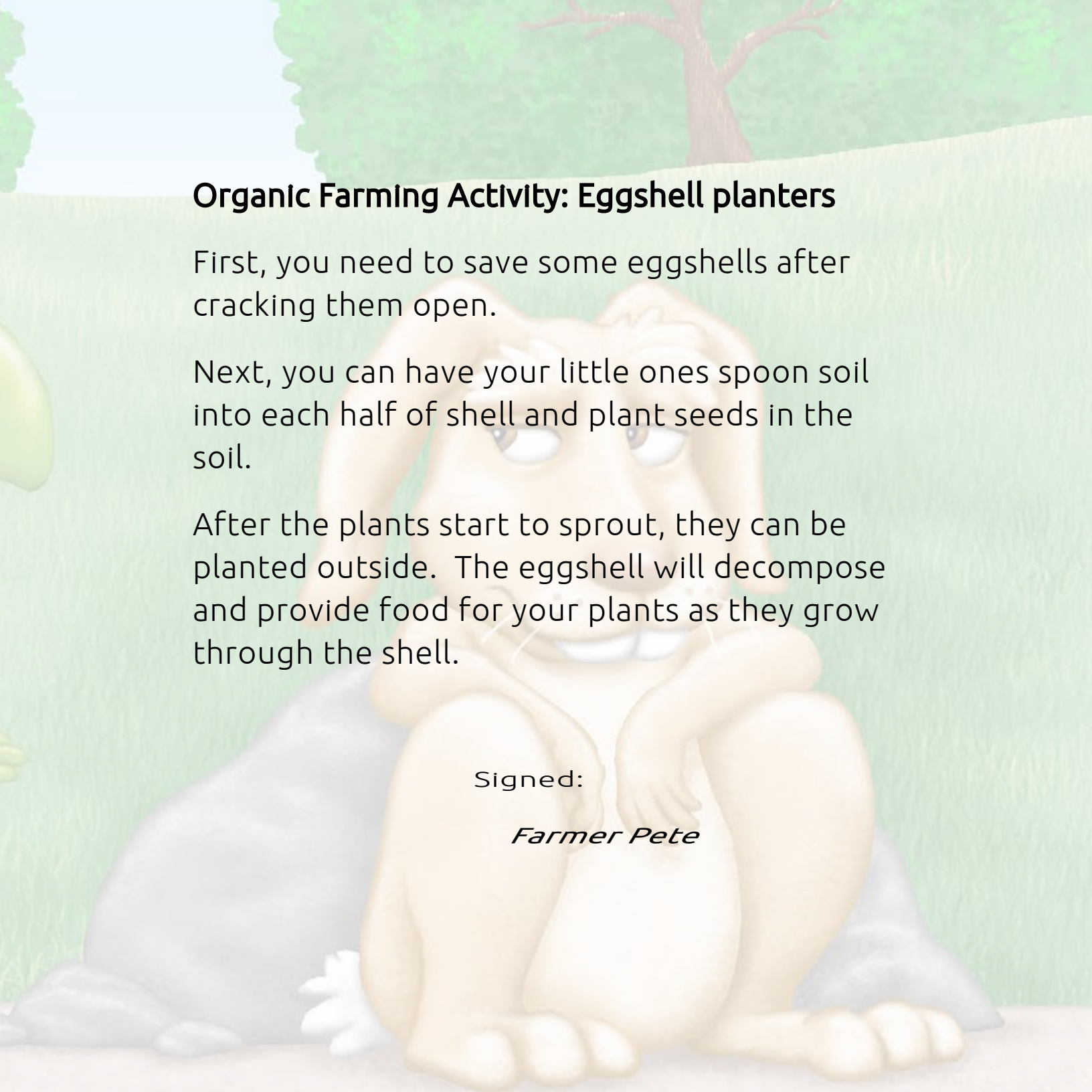
Going Green with Farmer Pete

Organic Farming

Preschoolers are just the right age to learn about the importance of farming. Organic farming is a way of growing food naturally, using no synthetic chemical fertilizers or genetically modified organisms. Food grown organically is a much healthier way of gardening.

Take time to schedule a family outing to a local organic farm. This can be a fun and educational way for children to learn about organic farming. Also, encourage little ones to help plan your own family garden. Children will enjoy preparing the soil, pulling weeds, and picking the yummy produce. Allow children to have their own special garden plot that they get to take care of by themselves. Let them decide what they want to plant. They will enjoy helping to prepare and eat the food that they grew themselves.

Teaching children at an early age the importance of eating fruits and vegetables gives them a good start in life.



Organic Farming Activity: Eggshell planters

First, you need to save some eggshells after cracking them open.

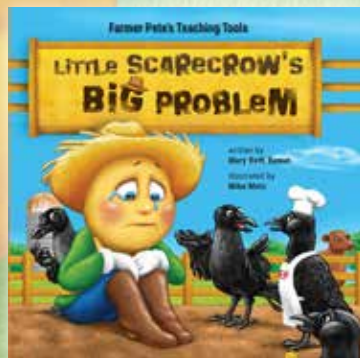
Next, you can have your little ones spoon soil into each half of shell and plant seeds in the soil.

After the plants start to sprout, they can be planted outside. The eggshell will decompose and provide food for your plants as they grow through the shell.

Signed:

Farmer Pete

Also in the
Farmer Pete
series!



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