

Planting a Rainbow

by Lois Ehlert

Bright colors, rhythmic text and the classic style of Lois Ehlert, help children not only learn about the colors of the rainbow but also about the world of flowers.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *What colors are in a rainbow?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder what the names of those flowers are?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *Planting a Rainbow*

- rainbow: a multi-colored arc in the sky that forms after it rains
- bulbs: an underground plant that stores the seeds and what flowers grow out of
- catalogs: a list of priced and illustrated items for sale
- sprout: to begin to grow from a seed
- seedlings: a young developing plant that has been grown from a seed
- sow: to scatter or plant a seed
- blooms: a flower

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Who plants the rainbow garden every year?
- What types of bulbs do they plant?
- Where do they order the seeds every winter?
- What do flowers need to grow?
- Can you describe what all was in the wagon?
- What colors are in the garden? In the rainbow?

Do

Classroom Seed Rainbow

You will need: white paper, an assortment of colored seed packets, magazine cutouts of flowers and glue

Draw a rainbow on a large piece of white paper. After reading the story, have the children sort all the seed packets and magazine cutouts by color. Next, allow the children to glue the colors on the white piece of paper, forming a rainbow of flowers.

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