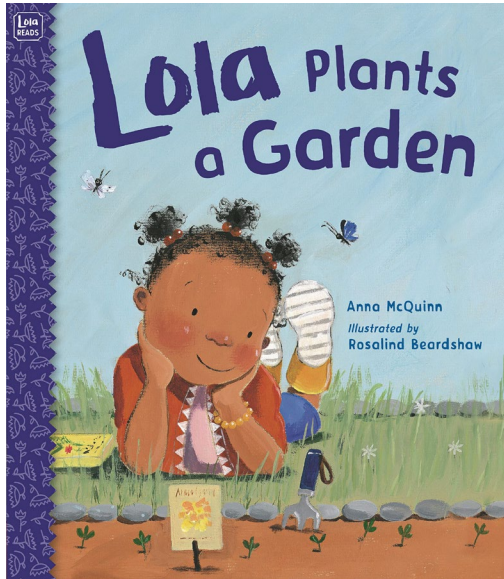




# LOLA PLANTS A GARDEN

STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Every child is different, and these are only suggested adaptations and activities. Do what works best for encouraging your child's exploration during this literacy activity. Consult your pediatrician, physical therapist (PT), and/or occupational therapist (OT) first.



Did you know reading books is a great opportunity to support STEM learning?

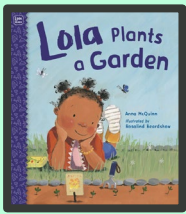
*Lola Plants a Garden* is a book written by Anna McQuinn and illustrated by Rosalind Beardshaw.

*Lola Plants a Garden* uses simple words and colorful pictures to talk about how **plants take care, like sunlight and water, and time to grow** and are a wonderful way to connect with family and friends.

- If you do not have a paper copy of this book, watch a YouTube video of someone reading the book. If you prefer to read it to your child yourself, just mute the audio.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OC7qurRN37A>

- Check your local library to see if it allows you to borrow a digital version of this book to read on a laptop, tablet, or phone.



# LOLA PLANTS A GARDEN

## BOOKMARK

STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Every child is different, and these are only suggested adaptations and activities. Do what works best for encouraging your child's independent exploration during this daily routine. Consult your pediatrician, physical therapist (PT), and/or occupational therapist (OT) first.

- Print this page and cut around the edges.
- Do not forget to **PEER!** Use **additional Prompts** if needed, **Evaluate** and **Expand** your child's answers, and **Repeat** the prompts.
- Look at STEMIE's tips for making adaptations to the storybook reading process and on the following pages:  
<https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu/guide-book-adaptations>
- If you print this page, you can download or view online by scanning the QR code below.



### Expanding | Science

## Lola Plants a Garden

By Anna McQuinn

**C**

Complete a sentence

Lola wants to plant a \_\_\_\_\_ (garden).

**R**

Recall

"Why did Lola have to wait to see the plants?" (plants take a long time to grow)

**O**

Open-ended questions

"What do Lola's flowers do?" "What do seeds need to grow?"

**W**

WH questions

"Where did Lola go to get seeds?" (garden store)

**D**

Distancing questions

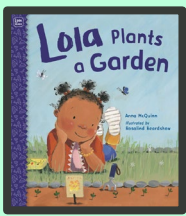
"What do you want to plant in a garden?"

### STEM Words & Ideas to Explore

- Flower
- Seed
- Garden
- Grow
- Soil
- Water



[stemie.fpg.unc.edu](https://stemie.fpg.unc.edu)



## LOLA PLANTS A GARDEN

# ADAPTATIONS

STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Every child is different, and these are only suggested adaptations and activities. Do what works best for encouraging your child's independent exploration during this daily routine. Consult your pediatrician, physical therapist (PT), and/or occupational therapist (OT) first.

## SUPPORT CHILDREN WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT/DEAF-BLINDNESS/MULTIPLE DISABILITIES:

### STORYBOX

Select corresponding items and place them in a container/box. Items may include:

- Seed packet
- Faux (fake) plants
- Dirt in a taped shut bag or a container with a lid



Image credit: Unsplash

### This adaptation can also...

- Increase children's attention and engagement
- Support children with sensory challenges



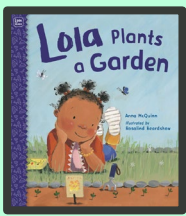
*Follow your child's lead and interests. Enthusiastically ask your child questions about what they are doing and what they like.*



*Answer your child's questions. If you do not know the answer, work together with your child to discover the answer.*



*Encourage your child to participate in the activity as much as possible. Praise your child's efforts and successes.*



# LOLA PLANTS A GARDEN ADAPTATIONS

STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Every child is different, and these are only suggested adaptations and activities. Do what works best for encouraging your child's independent exploration during this daily routine. Consult your pediatrician, physical therapist (PT), and/or occupational therapist (OT) first.

## SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF COMMUNICATION:

### PICTURES, SYMBOLS, SIGNS, AND/OR ICONS

- Select pictures that correspond to items/objects/animals in the book
- Add signs and icons to the story
- Use pictures along with a communication board to support STEM learning



Image Credit: STEMIE

### This adaptation can also...

- Increase children's attention and engagement
- Support children' learning
- Support children who are deaf/with hearing impairment



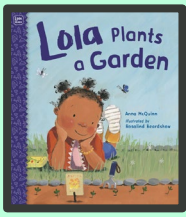
*Follow your child's lead and interests. Enthusiastically ask your child questions about what they are doing and what they like.*



*Answer your child's questions. If you do not know the answer, work together with your child to discover the answer.*



*Encourage your child to participate in the activity as much as possible. Praise your child's efforts and successes.*



# LOLA PLANTS A GARDEN ADAPTATIONS

STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Every child is different, and these are only suggested adaptations and activities. Do what works best for encouraging your child's independent exploration during this daily routine. Consult your pediatrician, physical therapist (PT), and/or occupational therapist (OT) first.

VISUAL CUES:  
USE TO PROMPT

## HOW TO:

**Step 1:** Print and cut out the images. You can also create your own visual cues (empty squares included).

**Step 2:** As you read, use tape or Velcro to attach the pictures to the corresponding pages in the book.



Gardening



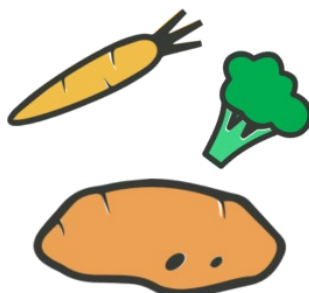
Dig



Seeds



Garden



Vegetables



Flower



Follow your child's lead and interests. Enthusiastically ask your child questions about what they are doing and what they like.

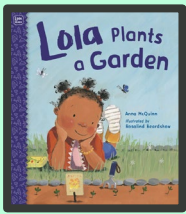


Answer your child's questions. If you do not know the answer, work together with your child to discover the answer.



Encourage your child to participate in the activity as much as possible. Praise your child's efforts and successes.





# LOLA PLANTS A GARDEN

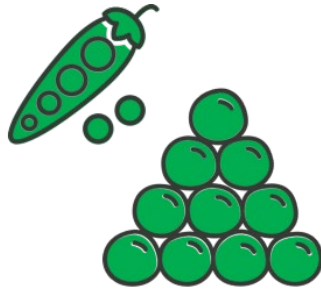
## ADAPTATIONS

STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Every child is different, and these are only suggested adaptations and activities. Do what works best for encouraging your child's independent exploration during this daily routine. Consult your pediatrician, physical therapist (PT), and/or occupational therapist (OT) first.



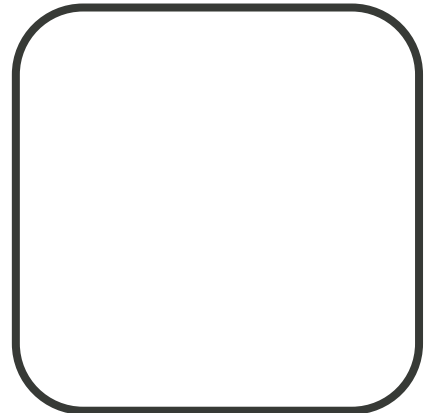
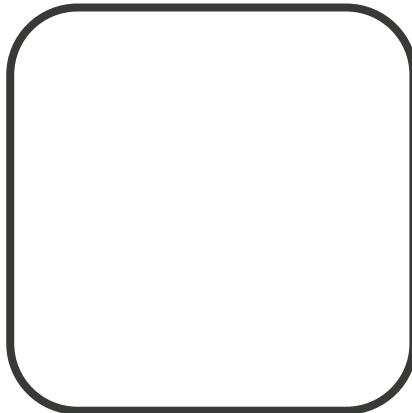
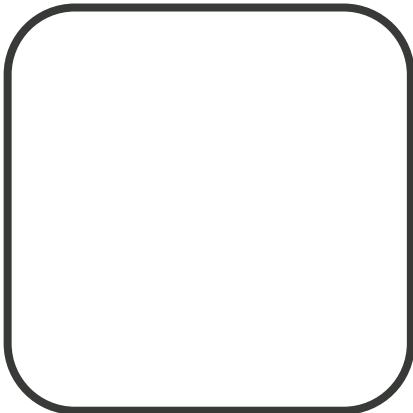
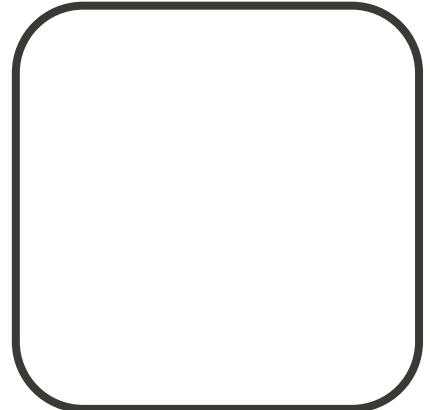
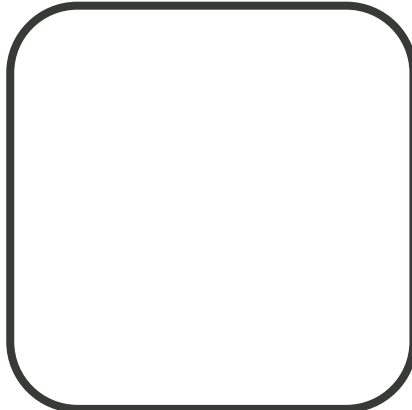
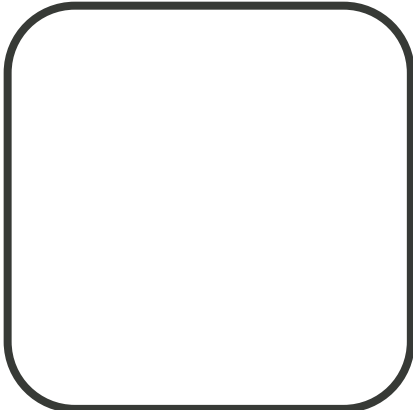
Shoots/Sprout



Peas



Strawberry



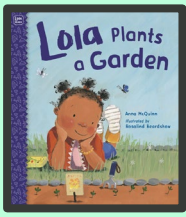
*Follow your child's lead and interests. Enthusiastically ask your child questions about what they are doing and what they like.*



*Answer your child's questions. If you do not know the answer, work together with your child to discover the answer.*



*Encourage your child to participate in the activity as much as possible. Praise your child's efforts and successes.*



## LOLA PLANTS A GARDEN

# EXPLORATION I

STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Every child is different, and these are only suggested adaptations and activities. Do what works best for encouraging your child's independent exploration during this daily routine. Consult your pediatrician, physical therapist (PT), and/or occupational therapist (OT) first.

## Plant Measurer

**Description:** Help your child learn to **measure** and take data by keeping a running record of plant heights they observe while they are outside playing or on a walk.

### What My Child Is Learning!

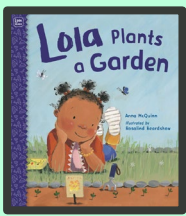
Children are naturally curious about their environment. Introduce STEM words, ask questions, and encourage them to identify **plants**. Help your child make a connection between words and real-life experiences and develop fundamental critical thinking and problem-solving skills, as well as math skills.

Give your child the lead to **measure!**

- Have your child stand next to a tree and ask "Which is **taller/shorter?** You or the **tree?**"
- Have your child stand in grass and ask "Which is **taller/shorter?** You or the **grass?**"
- Encourage children to find a plant that is **tall** enough to come up to their knees.

Adapted from LT<sup>2</sup>. Learn more here: <https://www.learningtrajectories.org/math-activities/up-to-my-knees>





# LOLA PLANTS A GARDEN

## EXPLORATION II

STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Every child is different, and these are only suggested adaptations and activities. Do what works best for encouraging your child's independent exploration during this daily routine. Consult your pediatrician, physical therapist (PT), and/or occupational therapist (OT) first.

### Gardener

**Description:** Help your child **observe** and foster the **growth of plants** by planting **seeds**. The activities below can be done over multiple days.

Help your child understand **plants have needs**, such as sunlight, water, air, and nutrient-rich soil and that **plants have parts** that help them meet these needs, such as leaves and roots.

#### What My Child Is Learning!

Children are naturally curious about their environment. Introduce STEM words, ask questions, and encourage them to identify **plants**. Help your child make a connection between words and real-life experiences and develop fundamental critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Your child may ask questions about what they are observing in order to understand what plant growth is. If not, encourage their observations and engagement by asking them questions.

1. Take a stroll outdoors and scavenge for seeds to examine and then plant. These can be acorns, dandelion seeds, sunflowers, beans, and more. Ask, "What plant do you think this seed will sprout into?" "How can we help this seed sprout and grow?"
2. Compare and contrast **living** (e.g., plants, flowers, trees) and non-living (e.g., rocks, air, water, soil) things. Ask, "What do you know about soil?" "How are plants and soil the same? Different?" "How are rocks and soil the same, Different?"
3. Use recycled egg cartons filled halfway with soil, place 1 to 2 seeds on top of soil in each egg holder, lightly tap seed into soil, and add a few drops of water. Ask, "How tall do you think this sprout will get?" "How many seeds should be put in each spot?"  
Note: Some of the easiest seeds to grow are beans and herbs.
4. Talk about how plants have **parts (roots, stem, flower petals, leaves)** that help them grow and contribute to their life cycle.



# LOLA PLANTS A GARDEN



## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY IDEAS

STORYBOOK CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Every child is different, and these are only suggested adaptations and activities. Do what works best for encouraging your child's independent exploration during this daily routine. Consult your pediatrician, physical therapist (PT), and/or occupational therapist (OT) first.

- Start a small vegetable garden with your child. **Make a plan**, plant the seeds, and tend to the garden. **Document how the plants grow** and research "recipes" to prepare once the vegetables grow. Be sure to record all the steps and decide if you should make any changes next year!
- Explore fruits and vegetables at the grocery store. Help your child research how some of their favorite produce grows and talk about different climates that allow for different fruits and vegetables to grow!
- Go on a garden hunt. Walk through your neighborhood and see if you can find other people's gardens. Talk about what they might be growing and keep track of all the gardens you see!
- Check out our Discovery Play Activities:
  - Sorting Leaves
  - Gardening
  - Nature Scavenger Hunt
- Check out our My STEM Adventure app, available on the App Store and Google Play. Follow the storybook activity taller/bigger and shorter/smaller.

