

# Gardening Unit

## Extension Activities

Below are some extension activities for each lesson of this unit! Although these activities require more planning and materials, they also allow for more creativity and free exploration!

### The Tiny Seed - Eric Carle

- **Tissue Paper Art** - Eric Carle used tissue paper and paint to create his beautiful illustrations! Try using different materials to create your own flower! See an example here:  
<https://i.pinimg.com/736x/32/58/37/3258373b6b0e49f833789f9f332c6b77.jpg>
- **Potato Painting** - Who said paintbrushes are necessary for painting? Why not try using potatoes to stamp petals of a flower! See an example from a teacher/mom blogger:  
<https://alittlepinchofperfect.com/flower-potato-stamping-craft-and-the-tiny-seed-free-printables/>
- **Paint, Cut, and Glue:** This is a classic process for Eric Carle. Why not try it at home? Paint different papers with varying shades of a certain color, cut them into the shapes you need, and then glue them onto a separate paper to create the desired design! Check out an example from an online blogger here: <http://planted-by-streams.blogspot.com/2010/05/tiny-seed-eric-carle-inspired-art.html>

### Lola Plants a Garden - Anna McQuinn

- **Dirt Letter Tracing:** Let's face it... kids LOVE to be dirty! Why not let them get their hands dirty while they practice tracing their letters? Grab a cookie tray, put some dirt, soil, or sand inside, and let them go to town! Check it out:  
<https://www.coffeecupsandcrayons.com/handwriting-practice-with-dirt-and-sticks/>
- **Plant a Garden:** Why not? With spring on the horizon, get outside as a family and get your hands dirty! Start pulling weeds and getting the soil ready for plants! Let those little hands be a big help!

# Planting a Rainbow - Lois Ehlert

- **Tape Bracelet** - Use packing tape to create a bracelet, sticky side out, for your child. Let them go outside and search for colors in nature. They can add flowers, grass, sticks, etc. to their bracelet!
- **Rainbow Shape Garden** - Help your child make their own rainbow shape garden! Pre-cut shapes in the classic ROYGBIV colors and let them glue them into beautiful flowers! See how this one Pre-K blogger did it here: <https://iheartcraftythings.com/best-preschoolkindergarten-activity.html>
- **Rainbow Flower Experiment** - bring the science of water traveling up a flower's stem to life with this fun and easy experiment. Bonus: you'll have beautiful colorful flowers to brighten up your home when you're done! See how to do it here: [https://funlearningforkids.com/color-changing-flowers-science-experiment/?utm\\_source=ActiveCampaign&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=Two+new+spring+printables+for+you&utm\\_campaign=April+2,+2018+\(Color+Changing+Flowers\)](https://funlearningforkids.com/color-changing-flowers-science-experiment/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Two+new+spring+printables+for+you&utm_campaign=April+2,+2018+(Color+Changing+Flowers))

# The Bad Seed - Jory John

- **Growth vs. Fixed Mindset:** This is a great opportunity to talk about growth and fixed mindsets. It is so important that our kids know that they might make mistakes but they can learn and grow no matter what! Learn more here <https://www.mindsetworks.com/science/>
- **Seed Name:** Buy some sunflower seeds, write your child's name on construction paper, and let them glue the seeds on top! A fun and easy project! Find this and more here <https://www.homespun-threads.com/craft-fair/25-nature-inspired-letter-g-activities>

# Plant the Tiny Seed - Christie Matheson

- **Plant Seeds** - Follow the instructions in the book and plant your own seeds! They will be sprouts soon and then transfer them to your garden!
- **Worm Hunt** - Go outside and search for worms! Get your hands dirty! How many can you find?