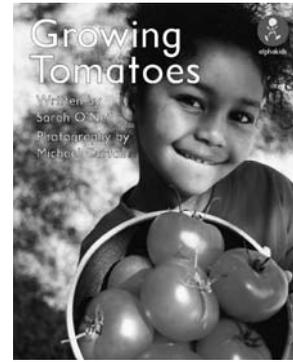


Growing Tomatoes

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Photography by Michael Curtain



Getting ready for reading

You may like to bring several tomatoes to class. Cut them up and look at the seeds. Ask: *Has anyone ever grown tomatoes at home?* Discuss children's responses and list any questions they have about growing tomatoes.

Talking through the book

Say: *This book is about growing tomatoes. As you turn through the pages you might say: What do you see happening on each page? What is the girl doing? How has the tomato plant changed?*

Reading the book

Children read the book independently while the teacher observes the children's reading behaviours.

Teaching opportunities

Select the most appropriate teaching focus for the learning needs of the group.

Being a meaning maker

Discuss these questions. Encourage children to support their responses with evidence from the book.

What do you need to grow tomatoes?

How long does it take a tomato plant to grow red tomatoes?

Being a code breaker

Vocabulary

- High-frequency words: *to, you, some, in, day, and, it, when, big, a, are*
- Word families: *pot – cot, dot, got, hot, lot, not, rot*

Sounds and letters

- Hearing words: syllables – Children clap when they hear the beat in words.
- Hearing sounds: short vowel sound in the middle of words – for example, children clap when they hear the short /a/ sound (as in *plant*)

Writing conventions

- Punctuation: capital letters, full stops

TEXT FEATURES

- **This book tells of the stages involved in growing tomatoes, giving information about what to do and what to expect as the tomatoes develop.**
- **Provides a calendar time line.**
- **Each stage of the tomato's growth fully supported by colour photographs.**
- **One or two lines of text, placed consistently on the page.**
- **Line breaks support phrasing.**

Being a text user

Discuss:

Where can we find information about what tomatoes look like as they grow?

Where can we learn about how long it takes for a tomato to grow?

Where can we find information about how often the seedlings need to be watered?

Does this book give us information about growing plants such as carrots or beans?

Being a text critic

Discuss:

Is this the only way to grow tomatoes?

Would it work where you live? Why? Why not?

Literacy learning centres

Interactive literacy centre

Children work in pairs or small groups to make tomato sandwiches. They can then list words to describe how the sandwiches taste.



Writing centre 1

Working in pairs, children can make a set of sequence cards to show how to grow tomatoes. Encourage them to include labelled diagrams. Alternatively, they could find out about growing another vegetable, and make a set of cards to show how this is done. Other children can then give feedback on how clear the cards were to follow

Writing centre 2

Using Blackline Master 7, children can complete a data chart using the questions they had before reading the book. They can find information by rereading *Growing Tomatoes* and other books about growing plants. They could then write their own book about growing tomatoes.

Keeping track

Children can provide feedback for each other –
Your sequence cards had all of the steps in the book, but they included labels which made it easier to understand.