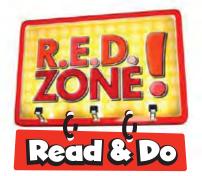# One Watermelon Seed
by Celia Barker Lottridge

A colorful and tasty counting book that introduces children to a world full of fruits and vegetables.

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, *Have you ever had a seed spitting contest?* 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 if that ladybug is going to get that seed?

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.

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions…
- Who planted the garden?
- What did they plant?
- How many watermelon seeds did the kids plant? Pumpkin seeds?
- What insects were in the ground when they planted the peppers?
- Count the tomato plants and blueberry bushes.
- What did they plant the bean seeds against?
- How many corn seeds did the kids plant?
- What colors were in the garden after everything finished growing?
- What color was the eggplant? Peppers?
- What bugs were on the tomatoes?
- Were the blueberries big? What shape are they?
- There were 80 string beans. Count to 80 by 10s together.
- How many potato bags were there? Baskets of corn?
- What did the kids do with the corn?

Do

Seed Matching

You will need: various fruits and vegetables (with seeds)

After reading the story, show the kids all the fruits and vegetables that you purchased. Have the kids name and describe each food. Next, cut each food in half, exposing the seeds. Pass each seed around to each child. If desired, lay each food on the table and have the kids match the seeds to the food.

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