

# The Patchwork Garden

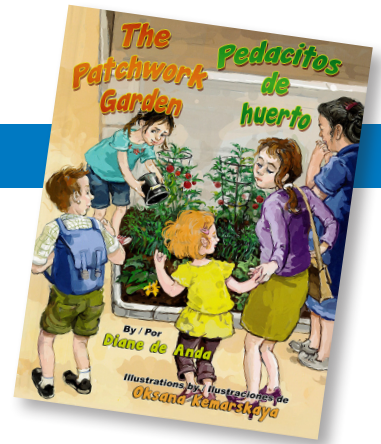
## A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

**Themes:** Gardening, Community, Healthy Living, Family

**Book Brief:** After finding her own patch of dirt to plant a garden, a young girl inspires her neighbors to follow her example and grow their own vegetables.

**Author:**  
Diane de Anda

**Illustrator:**  
Oksana Kemarskaya



## TIME TO READ!

**Before reading:** Ask children what they think the title means. What is a patchwork garden? How would a patchwork garden be different from a regular garden? What experiences have the children had with gardens? Ask what they think grows in a garden.

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### CARROT TOPS (AGES 5-12)

Materials: whole carrots, knife, veggie dip, pie tin, water

Slice carrots for a healthful snack for children to enjoy with their favorite veggie dip. Save the carrot tops; cut off leaves. Let children place the tops in a pie tin filled with water. Watch to see new leaves sprout from the carrot tops. Have children measure the growth each day.

### PLANT A SALSA GARDEN (AGES 5-12)

Materials: cilantro, onion, pepper, and tomato seeds; pots and soil or garden space

Who doesn't love chips and homemade salsa? Start a salsa garden by having children plant cilantro, onions, peppers, and tomatoes.



(Use pots if no garden space is available.) Once the plants are ripe, have children harvest them and make salsa. A super simple recipe with video can be found at <https://kidstir.com/kids-recipes/fresh-salsa/>.



### SEED VIEWER (AGES 5-8)

Materials per child: plastic cup, paper towel, plastic wrap, water, lima bean seed

Have each child moisten a paper towel and place it in a plastic cup. Place the lima bean seed between the cup and the paper towel so it can be seen from the outside. Cover top of cup with plastic wrap. Place the cup near a window. Observe how the seed changes over the next few days. Place one seed cup in a dark area. Did that seed grow like the others?

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OTHER BOOKS ABOUT GARDENING

*Grandpa's Garden*, Stella Fry (2012)  
*Planting the Wild Garden*, Kathryn O. Galbraith (2010)  
*The Curious Garden*, Peter Brown (2009)



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