



*Share a book everyday to create a reader for a lifetime!*



**Title:** The Ugly Vegetables

**Author and Illustrator:** Grace Lin

**Book Summary:** When a little girl helps her mother plant, water, and harvest their backyard garden, they do things differently from their neighbors. But those ugly vegetables make a wonderful soup for all!

**Before Reading,** use the following conversation starters to engage your child's interest in the book.

**To generate interest in the book,** ask your child open-ended questions to encourage him/her to predict what the little girl and her mother might do with the vegetables.

**To develop book awareness,** talk with your child about the cover of the book. Explain that the title, author, and illustrator are shown here. Discuss what those words mean.

**During Reading,** use the following ideas to keep your child actively engaged in the book sharing.

**To develop print awareness,** run your finger under the words as you read. Point out letters that are familiar to your child or are in his/her name. Practice making the sound the letter makes.

**To build verbal skills,** ask your child to describe the illustrations. Encourage him/her to notice the details of the pictures and describe them. After your child tells you what s/he sees, repeat the descriptions and add a few more details to work on new vocabulary. Introduce words in other languages too!

**After Reading,** use the following activities to extend your book sharing experience.

**To encourage creativity,** encourage your child to create a family/friends dinner portrait. It can be a picnic at the beach or a cookout in the back yard. Maybe the dinner is at his/her home or the home of a family member or friend. What would everyone eat? Are there any favorites that are always served?

Hang your new artwork up for all to see!

**To develop personal connections to the story,** take your child to the grocery store or farmers market to look at the different types of fresh vegetables and fruits. Which vegetables does your child like? Choose a few-favorites and new ones– to take home and try for dinner.

**To initiate learning in the kitchen,** talk with your child about different vegetables you can prepare together for dinner. Which ones does your child like? What are new ones you could try? Include your child in age-appropriate, safe ways. Could your child set the table, wash the veggies, measure the ingredients?

Onslow County Partnership for Children



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