



[Cheers for a Dozen Ears: A Summer Crop of Counting](#)

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Literacy Activity

Have your child survey each family member, asking for each person's favorite summer fruit or vegetable. Help your child look up each word and write it down. If your child does not yet have writing skills, you write it down and read it back. Be sure to break the fruit or vegetable word into syllables and clap it out: **wa/ter/mel/on**. With your child, find a variety of interesting material around the house and have your child create each person's favorite fruit or vegetable next to its word. Remember, it is the art process which grows your child's brain, not a perfectly executed craft project. Enjoy the process and consider making a "Family Summer Fruits and Vegetables" book.



Dramatic Play or Music Activity

To the tune of "I've Been Working on the Railroad"

I've been raking in the garden all the live-long day...
 I've been weeding in the garden 'til the sunshine goes away...
 Spreading all the little seedlings over newly fertile ground...
 Enriching them with topsoil and watering all around.
 Veggies won't you grow
 Veggies won't you grow
 Veggies won't you grow for me, me, me
 Veggies won't you grow
 Veggies won't you grow
 It's a farmer's life for me!

Try growing vegetables together; is growing food hard or easy?



Math Activity

Aside from playing the one-to-one correspondence counting games introduced in the book, make a fruit and vegetable table chart with your child. [Click the image to print the PDF](#) (or create your own notecards and have your child complete the activity). Together, arrange the column headings on your tabletop. Read the classification definition of fruits and vegetables. Put each card in the correct column...categorize based on plant characteristics. Did you get them all right? Some may be both! Check online to adjust.

| Fruit | Vegetable |
|-------------|---------------|
| watermelon | peppers |
| cucumbers | yellow squash |
| tomatoes | peaches |
| green beans | corn |

Science Activity

Point out the fruit and vegetable scale at the supermarket next time you go with your child. Have your child weigh different items, i.e., a head of lettuce vs. a head of cabbage. How much does each weigh? Which weighs more? Why does your child think it weighs more? Go home and make your own scale with materials from around



the house: cups, string, a hanger with hooks. Then weigh items in your refrigerator. Are there times when big items weigh the same as smaller items?