

Understanding of the World

This book is ideal for talking about seeds, planting and growing. Children can explore what plants need to help seeds grow, as well as plant their own seeds and observe what happens.

In the story, when the rain does not come, the children provide the rain themselves – this is an opportunity to talk about the weather and how this can impact plants and how they grow.

You could organise a designated digging and watering area for child-led play and learning.

Pumpkins are often seen at Halloween and are a traditional part of the celebrations. Can the children think of any other plants which are linked to different celebrations e.g. holly at Christmas, flower rangoli patterns for Diwali?



Expressive arts

Using a variety of fruits and vegetables and a range of art mediums, children create their own still life images.

Look at the work of Giuseppe Arcimboldo, an Italian painter who is best known for creating imaginative portrait heads using fruits and vegetables.

Personal, Social, Emotional Development

The children in 'We planted a Pumpkin' learn that being patient is an important trait to have as a gardener as they wait for their pumpkin to grow.

Can the children think of situations when they have had to wait and be patient e.g. waiting in a queue at the shops, waiting to see the doctor, waiting for their birthday to come round?

Can they think of activities that they could do to help them wait patiently e.g. play I-Spy etc?

Mathematics

The story in 'We planted a Pumpkin' and the idea of planting and growing a seed can provide lots of opportunities for developing mathematical understanding:

- Using seeds to count and develop 1 to 1 correspondence
- Ordering seeds by size
- Measuring the height of a plant as it grows (link to creating a seed diary)
- In the story bees and butterflies can be seen – children could keep a tally chart of the insects they see in the garden.

Communication, Language & Literacy

Nursery rhymes and songs have a huge impact on children's language and communication development; they are full of rhyming, rhythm and repetition. These elements help boost children's language, communications and literacy development. Sing nursery rhymes and songs all about seeds, flowers, planting and growing.

Use a range of vegetables and ask the children to sort them according to their own criteria.

Literacy

Keep a seed diary.

Make seed packets and write a simple set of instructions about how to plant them and look after them.

Using images, from the book, of the pumpkin as it gets bigger, discuss with the children the growth of the pumpkin in the story, and draw/write about the life-cycle of a seed. You could watch a time-lapse video of a seed growing to aid understanding.

'Rob Ramsden is an exciting new arrival on the picture book scene and We Planted a Pumpkin is a really lovely book. Though it feels beautifully simple, it's actually chockful of information and opportunities for learning. A gorgeous book to share with the young and likely to be the start of many adventures in the garden.' **LOVEREADING4KIDS**

'The illustrations are vibrant and inclusive. These books are perfectly pitched for reception aged children, ideal for inspiring wall displays.' **THE SCHOOL READING LIST**

WE PLANTED A PUMPKIN by Rob Ramsden is published by Scallywag Press.
978-1-912650-38-5 www.scallywagpress.com

Also in the series, each with free resources:



I SAW A BEE

WE FOUND A SEED

And in preparation: I HEARD A BIRD

These teacher notes are by Jenny Guest. Jenny is an independent educational consultant and writer alongside her role as an Assistant Headteacher in a large London primary school. She has been a primary school teacher for ages 3-11. Jenny is also an avid reader of children's literature and runs @bookishwaytoplay on Instagram, which aims to showcase and review the very best children's books, as well as create accompanying supportive learning activities for toddlers, preschool and primary school age children.

