



From SAIL: **S**ystems  
**A**ligned **I**n **L**earning

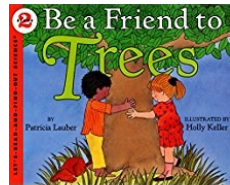
# The Be **READY** Rover Review

May's Storytime Theme: **Growing Things**

**READ**



*Tap the Magic Tree*  
by Christie Matheson



*Be a Friend to Trees*  
Patricia Lauber



*I'm a Seed*  
Jean Marzollo

We try to achieve the 6 early literacy skills - **Print Motivation, Print Awareness, Letter Knowledge, Vocabulary, Phonological Awareness** ( such as rhyming words), and **Narrative Skills** – by including 5 basic activities in our lesson plans: **TALK, SING, READ, WRITE, PLAY.**

**TALK**

Why are plants important to us? How do trees help us? Have you ever grown anything from a seed? What foods do you eat that have seeds in them? What do plants need to grow?

**SING**

We did this action song to the tune of “The Itsy Bitsy Spider”; “Once a little apple seed was planted in the ground. Down came the rain, splashing all around. Our came the sun, as bright as bright can be. And the little apple seed grew up to be a tree.” We also sang “The Green Grass Grew all Around”, using the flannel board to illustrate it.

**WRITE**

The children made a flower pictures, using silk flowers (from a lei), paper stems and leaves, and confetti for the seeds, attaching them with glue sticks.

**PLAY**

The children used magnifying glasses to examine seedlings in glass cups and plastic sandwich bags. They arranged magnetic pictures of the germinating process on the magnetic board. They examined a dandelion, too. They also named and placed the felt fruits and vegetables on flannel board, showing whether the edible part grew below or above the ground.

### More Activities:

**TEACHERS: Make a self-watering planter;** Cut off the top of a 2-liter plastic bottle about 5 inches below the top. Use an awl or a drill to poke a hole in the cap. Invert the bottle top into the bottom. Put an 18-in. piece of jute string (something absorbable) through the hole and knot on the side of the top part. Fill the top with soil, the bottom with water. Moisten the soil with a spray bottle. The water from the bottom will travel up the string.



**Make a Greenhouse for kids;** Use 2 slightly different- sized cups, with one, at least, clear. Use a pushpin to poke holes in the bottom of the larger one, for drainage. Fill with soil and plant some seeds. Place the clear cup on top, then keep the soil moist but not wet.

**STEM:** Here's an easy science experiment; Add some drops of food coloring to small containers of water, and place a white carnation, or a celery stalk in each one. When the flowers or celery turn color, ask the children if they can guess why. Teach them a new word: Osmosis.

## Super Simple Crafts



**Handprint blossoming cherry tree**

**Paper Plate Apple Tree**



If there are certain kinds of books or materials you would like me to bring out to you, just call me at : 717-207-0500 ext. 1201, or email : [mbenson@lancasterlibraries.org](mailto:mbenson@lancasterlibraries.org)

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