Play is the most powerful way young children learn.

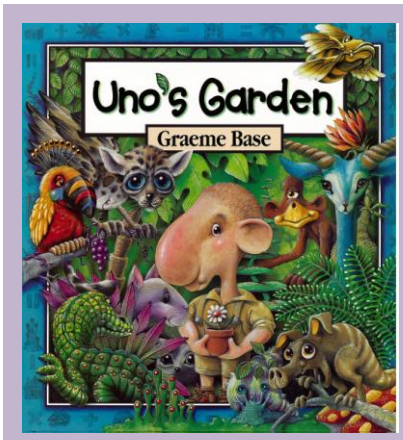
- Every time you play, sing or read with young children they are learning about language.
- The following activities have been designed for early childhood professionals to use as a starting point for developing children's early literacy skills through play.
- Please feel free to adapt them for the home and with children of different ages.
- Don't forget to record your own ideas, activities that worked really well, relevant songs and rhymes in the Notes section opposite.
- Visit our website www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au for more fun printable activities based on this book.

Engaging with Language and Literacy

When Uno arrives in the forest one beautiful day, there are many fascinating and extraordinary animals there to greet him. And one entirely unexceptional Snortlepig.

Uno loves the forest so much, he decides to live there. But, in time, a little village grows up around his house. Then a town, then a city. . . and soon Uno realises that the animals and plants have begun to disappear. . .

- *Uno's Garden* is a story that has an environmental focus. It is also counting book that shows how when one thing increases another decreases.
- Introduce the story to the children. What do they think the story will be about?
- Read the poem on the inside cover.
- The story features lots of unusual creatures – do they look like any other animals?
- Can the children find the Snortlepig on each page?
- Talk about what happened to all of the animals, why did they leave the forest?
- Do the children think the people at the end of the story will ever see a Snortlepig?
- The following link has some excellent focus questions and website links you may like to use before, after and during the reading of the story.
  http://www.curriculumpress.edu.au/rel/sustainability/unos-garden.php



Uno's Garden

Graham Base

Notes

- Focus on the numerals 1 -10. What can the children find 1 of in the classroom, what can they find two of in the classroom and so on?
- Make an animal number chart, using pictures cut from magazines or calendars.
- Uno means 1 in Spanish – teach the children to count 1 -10 in a language other than English.
- Make a collection of books featuring gardens and forests.
- Create a display space for the children to bring in something special from their own garden. Ask parents to help their children collect leaves, flowers and seedpods for the display.

Being Creative Through Play

Nature Collage

- Collect a variety of natural materials such as small leaves, flowers, seeds and twigs.
- Let the children use their materials to create their own collage of a garden?
- Can they create their own unique animal to live in their garden?

Unusual Creatures

- Can the children create their own unusual creature?
- Using pictures cut from magazines, encourage the children to use different parts of other animals to create their own creature.
- What will they call their creature?
- Where does their creature live, what does it eat?

Make Uno's Home

- Using pop sticks, sticks, corrugated card and glue can the children make a hut like Uno made in the forest?
- Include books with pictures of homes from around the world to use for the children to read.

Exploring Our World

Plant Your Own Garden

- Think of the fun children can have starting their own garden just like Uno.
- As well as growing plants you could also:

More Books About Families:

When Dad Did the Washing by David Armitage

My Daddy and Me by Rachel Flynn

Piglet and Papa & *Piglet and Mama* by Margaret Wild & Stephen Michael King

Baby Birds Blankie byMargaret Wild & Gwyn Perkins

The Family Book by Todd Parr

Useful Websites and Links:

For Printable Activities:

www.thelittlebigbookclub.com.au

The information within this resource file is provided by The Little Big Book Club. Enquiries to admin@tbbcinc.com.au. The Vegemite Little Aussie Reader is a project developed in partnership with The Little Big Book Club and Kraft Foods. The Little Big Book Club is known as *The Advertiser* Little Big Book Club in South Australia and *The Courier-Mail* Little Big Book Club in Queensland and *The Daily Telegraph* Little Big Book Club in New South Wales.

  - Make a scarecrow
  - Start a worm farm
  - Set up a compost bin
  - Paint a sign and name the garden
- If you don't have space in your outdoor environment to plant a garden you can use pots to grow flowers or vegetables in.

Excursion To A Garden

- Organise an excursion to a garden or park.
- How many different types of plants can the children see?
- How many different types of animals?
- Take clipboards, paper and pencils so the children can record their discoveries.

Colour Matching

- Give each child a piece of paper with four large squares each with a different colour.
- Can they find something in the outdoor environment/garden to match the colours on their sheet?

Caring For Creatures

- Uno's Garden was a safe place for the Snortle Pig live. What could the children put in their garden for birds and insects to feel safe?
- Make a bird feeder – pinecones covered with honey and dipped in birdseed make a simple bird feeder.
- Place a birdbath or shallow containers of water in the garden for the birds and other creatures to drink from. **Remember to always supervise young children around water.**

Enjoying Dramatic and Musical Play

Role-play not only stimulates children's imagination but also helps with social development.

Recreate Uno's Garden

- Make your own version of Uno's Garden in the home corner.

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- The children can help by painting the backdrop on large pieces of paper. What sort of plants will they paint, tall trees or small shrubs?
- Make paper flowers and leaves to decorate the garden.
- Pot plants can also be used to recreate the garden and forest.
- Also include toy animals or puppets, a small tent or large cardboard boxes for houses.
- Sing songs about gardens and forests.
- The following link features a song by J P Taylor about forests and their importance.
  http://freesongsforkids.com/videos/rain-forest-song

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