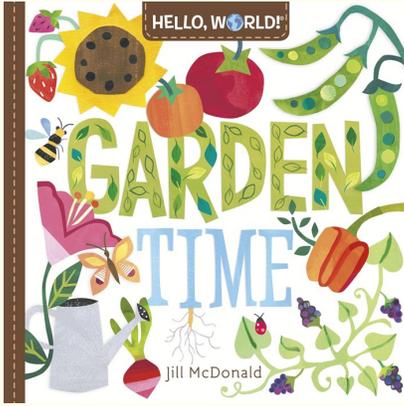


**Book to add to your child's library:** *Garden Time* by Jill McDonald



## BABY GAMES & LANGUAGE

### Potato Hop

Use brown sheets of paper to cut out 10 large potato shapes. Tape the potato shapes to the floor in a straight line or a circle, spacing them just a small step apart.

Hold baby securely under the arms or around the torso so their feet touch the floor.

Starting at potato number one, gently help baby bounce or hop from one number to the next.

As you move from potato to potato, chant the rhyme in a fun, sing-song voice:

*One potato, two potato,  
Three potato, four,  
Five potato, six potato,  
Seven potato, more.*

*Eight potato, nine potato,  
Here is ten.*

*Now let's start all over  
again!*

## EXPLORATION

### Garden Exploration

Let your baby discover the texture of a flowery by gently touching a petal.

### Sensory Exploration in the Garden

- Gently brush a leaf or flower against baby's hand
- Let baby feel grass or leaves
- Hold baby near flowers so they can see colors and smell softly
- Sit baby on a blanket outdoors and listening to birds or wind

## MUSIC & MOVEMENT

### Wiggle Worm

(tune: Did You Ever See a Lassie?)

Did you ever see a wiggle worm,  
A wiggle worm, a wiggle worm?  
Did you ever see a wiggle worm  
Move this way and that?  
Move this way and that way,  
Move this way and that way.  
Did you ever see a wiggle worm  
Move this way and that?

### Little Seed

Little seed in the ground  
(crouch down, hands covering head)  
Sitting so still.  
Little seed, will you sprout?  
YES, I will!  
(jump up)

### Mud Mix

Mix the mud.  
(make stirring motion)  
Squish the mud.  
(make squishing motion with fingers)  
Squash it with your feet.  
(stand on balls of feet and twist)  
Squishy, squashy, squooshy mud.  
(pretend to make a mud pie)  
Mud is really neat!  
(hold up hands, palms out)

## RELATIONSHIP BUILDING / BONDING

### Slow Down

Hold your baby close and let the world slow down for a moment. Notice what captures their attention: the way their eyes track light through leaves, how their fingers curl around yours, the quiet stillness that happens when they feel safe.

say:

"I see what you're looking at."

"You're curious."

"I'm right here with you."

You might say: You might