Dear Parents,

Please accept this book and suggested activities as a gift from Books for Kids for you and your child to enjoy together. *The Carrot Seed* by Ruth Krauss is a wonderful book to introduce children to plants and how they grow. We hope sharing this great book together will be a perfect way for you to encourage your child to enjoy the experience of reading together.

Books for Kids

**BEFORE READING**

**TO INTRODUCE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE:** Have you and your child ever visited a garden? Have you ever grown your own plants in a garden? Talk about these experiences with your child. Ask your child to think about the places where they see plants growing. Do you live near a park? Are there trees or plants on your street? Talk about how things grow.

**INTRODUCE STORY:** Introduce the title and author/illustrator. Explain that Ruth Krauss wrote the story and Crockett Johnson created the illustrations. Show your child the cover. Talk about the things you see on the front. What colors are there? Do they see any familiar shapes? Have they ever eaten a carrot? Ask your child to make a prediction: What do you think the book will be about?

**DISCUSS CONCEPTS:** As you read, you can use this book to talk about how things grow. Encourage your child to identify the steps for growing a plant. First they need a seed, then they need to plant the seed in dirt. The seed will need water and sunlight to grow. Talk about how the plant gets larger over time. As you read, encourage your child to make predictions. You can ask: Do you think the seed will grow? Why or why not?

**READING**

Now read aloud for enjoyment.

**INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE:** Read the story once through without interruption. Then, read it again, inviting your child to talk about the story.

**EXTEND THE STORY**

Ask your child to tell you in his or her own words what he or she learned.

**READ ALOUD TIPS FOR PARENTS**

- Read to your child every day. 15 minutes a day is all it takes. If you can’t, ask someone else to be your child’s designated reader.
- Try to find a quiet, comfortable place for reading together. Turn off other distractions, such as the radio or television.
- Read slowly enough so that your child has time to take in the story and look at the pictures. Follow the words with your finger so your child can see that words are read from left to right.
- Make reading engaging and interactive. Children may enjoy holding the book or turning the pages. Invite your child to read words and lines along with you.
- Read with expression. Try creating different voices for different characters. Don’t worry about reading perfectly, though.
- Encourage your children to ask questions about the characters, pictures, plot, and words.
- Talk about the story with your child. Ask open-ended questions starting with “why,” “what,” and “how.”
- Your child may want you to read the same story over and over again. That’s great! After several retellings, ask your child to tell you the story.
- Most importantly – HAVE FUN! If you do, your child will too!
How do carrots grow? After reading the book, talk with your child about the steps for the carrot to grow (1. plant the seed, 2. water the plant and give it sunlight, 3. see the small bud or leaf come up, 4. the carrot is ready to pick). In each box, have your child draw a picture to show how the carrot grows. You can re-read the story, or go back and have your child use the illustrations for clues.