This week your child is reading *The Harvest Birds*, a folktale about a young man whose special relationship with nature enables his vegetable crops to flourish, despite the doubts of others.

**Sounds of Nature**  To tune in to the sounds of nature, sit outside with your child. Close your eyes and hold up a fist. Listen for different sounds of nature, such as birds singing, bees buzzing, or the wind blowing. Each time you hear a new sound, raise one finger. When you hear five sounds, open your eyes. Talk about what you have heard.

**Vocabulary on the Go**  Each of this week’s vocabulary words has a smaller word within it, and some have more than one. With your child, write each of these words: *harvest, separate, ashamed, borders, advice, borrow, patch, serious*. Underline the smaller words-within-a-word. Discuss what all the words mean.

Rearrange letters in the words to form new words.

**From Artichoke to Zucchini**  Together, try to name a vegetable for each letter of the alphabet. If you can’t think of a veggie, feel free to name fruits, too. Examples for some of the harder letters are below—but don’t peek unless you get really stuck!

- **D** = daikon, dill
- **F** = fiddlehead, fig
- **I** = iceberg lettuce
- **J** = jalapeño, jicama
- **Q** = quince
- **U** = udo
- **V** = Vidalia onion
- **X** = xigua (Chinese for watermelon)
Grow a Popcorn Plant  Together, read these instructions for growing your own popcorn plant. It’s simple, if you want to give it a try!

Popcorn Plants  
*May grow several plants*

**Materials**

1 zippered plastic bag  
2 paper towels  
unpopped popcorn kernels

1. Soak the paper towels in water. Put them in the bag. 
2. Put a few popcorn kernels in the bag, on top of the paper towels. Close the bag. 
3. Place the bag where it will get a lot of sun (outside, if possible). 
4. For the next 10 days, watch the kernels. Add water if the paper towels get too dry. 
5. Once a plant starts to grow, transfer it to a small pot with potting soil.

**Super Salad**  Use raw or cooked vegetables to make a veggie salad with your child. Throw in veggies you don’t ordinarily use in salads, such as cooked potato, squash, peas, or corn. Top it off with a dash of salad dressing. You might find that your child is suddenly enjoying vegetables!

**Book Links**

- *A Fruit and Vegetable Man*, by Roni Schotter  
- *Farmer Boy*, by Laura Ingalls Wilder  

**Internet Challenge**  Do a search for "vegetable activities for kids" together, and you’ll find recipes, art projects, crafts, and games about vegetables, as well as helpful nutritional information.