

Cowy: It's a beautiful day to be outside!

Elliot: It sure is!

Lisa: I'm glad we decided to come to the park today!

Cowy: Me too!

Billy: Chirp!

Presenter: I'm glad too! I wanted to bring you to the park today to show you a very special place!

Elliot: What's the special place?

Presenter: It's a surprise! Welcome to Storytime by Lingokids - where we discover fascinating facts about the world around us and the fun of Playlearning. Join us today as we learn all about gardening!

Cowy: Oh, look over there! What are those people doing?

Lisa: It looks like they're digging or doing something in the dirt!

Cowy: Are they looking for treasure?

Presenter: They're gardening! This is the special place I wanted to show you - this place is a garden! And not just any garden, but a community garden!

Elliot: What's that?

Presenter: Well, a garden is somewhere where people can plant all kinds of plants and vegetables, and a community garden is open for everyone to come and garden together!

Cowy: Why would people do that?

Lisa: It looks like a lot of work!

Presenter: Well, gardening can be hard work, but it's also fun and rewarding, and doing it together is a great way to socialize and even make new friends! Let's get closer and see what they're doing!

Cowy: Look at everyone working in the dirt!

Elliot: Isn't dirt dirty?

Cowy: hehe yeah!

Presenter: Well, that dirt on the ground is actually called **soil**. It's true that it has a lot of bacteria and germs that we wouldn't want to eat, but it also has a lot of nutrients that are really good for plants.

Elliot: oooh!

Presenter: Soil is very important because it's good for plants, and plants are where we get a lot of our food from!

Billy: chirp chirp!

Presenter: That's right Billy! It's still good to use gloves when gardening, and always wash your hands afterwards! And of course wash the fruits and vegetables before eating them!

Lisa: Why are they moving the dirt around with that little rake?

Presenter: That's called **tilling** the soil. It helps loosen up the soil and mix up the nutrients so that it's ready for planting!

Cowy: Cool!

Elliot: What things can we plant?

Presenter: Well, just about any kind of fruit and vegetable that you can think of! Since it's our very first steps as gardeners, let's think of something that is quick and easy to grow. I can think of sweet tomatoes, juicy lettuce, and kale! What else can we plant Lingokids Listeners?

Lisa: I want to plant some marshmallows!

Elliot: I want to plant some chocolate chip cookies!

Lingokids Characters: Yum!

Presenter: Marshmallows and cookies are not things you can plant! You can only plant...well...plants! Like fruit and vegetable trees!

Lingokids Characters: Oohhhhhh

Cowy: I want to plant some... apples!

Elliot: I want to plant bamboo!

Lisa: I want to plant some blueberries!

Billy: Chirp chirp!

Presenter: And how about we plant something that cows, pandas, and foxes can all eat!

Cowy: Like what?

Presenter: I'll give you a hint, they're orange and hard, and crunchy when you bite them. Can you guess what they are?

Lingokids Characters: Carrots!

Presenter: That's right! We can plant carrots too! They're healthy and are good for your eye health too!

Lingokids Characters: Yummy!

Lisa: I have a question though.

Presenter: Yes, Lisa?

Lisa: Why should we grow a garden when we can just buy veggies and fruits at the supermarket?

Presenter: Well, Lisa, fruits and veggies that are grown in a garden can be even healthier and tastier, and they're always organic!

Cowy: What's organic?

Elliot: Is it like a piano with big pipes on the wall?

Presenter: No, Elliot! You are talking about the organ. Organic refers to growing food in a natural way, without adding any chemicals.

Elliot: Ohhh, I see! hehe

Presenter: Gardens aren't just good for our health though. They're also good for the environment! Gardening is a way of growing food in a **sustainable** way!

Elliot: What's that?

Presenter: It's when something is done in a way that doesn't hurt the environment or impact it in a negative way.

Elliot: That's great!

Billy: Chirp chirp!

Presenter: Great idea, Billy! Let's go plant our carrot seeds in the garden! There are some seeds over there!

Cowy: I've got mine!

Lisa: Me too!

Elliot: Me three!

Billy: Chirp!

Presenter: Ok, now dig a little hole in the soil. Place your seed in the hole, and then cover the hole with soil. And then, add a little bit of water!

Lisa: How fun!

Cowy: I'm going to wait here and watch my seed grow!

Presenter: Well Cowy, we might have to wait a while. Our carrots should germinate in about two weeks or so!

Elliot and Lisa: Germinate?

Lisa: We don't want our carrots to have germs!

Presenter: No no no! Although it sounds like germs, germinate means when a baby plant starts sprouting or growing from a seed.

Elliot: Ohhhh! Two weeks is a long time!

Presenter: It will go by quickly, Elliot, and the good thing is we can come back to water our seeds. They need plenty of water and sunlight to grow into a healthy plant!

Cowy: Yay! I want to come back and water the seeds!

Presenter: It's exciting to see the results of your hard work! All it takes is a few weeks, and you can see your plant grow from a seed that you planted yourself!

Lisa: How fun! I would like to have my own garden one day!

Presenter: Well Lisa, we don't have to wait! Growing your own garden is actually easy. All we need is some open space, like a backyard, to build our garden in.

Cowy: Let's grow our own garden at home!

Elliot: Yeah, let's do it!

Presenter: Ok, we can pick up some soil on the way back home and start making our own garden!

Lingokids Characters: Hurray!

Presenter: Well, Lingokids Listeners, we had a great time today. Thank you for joining us in the garden, and I hope you enjoyed it too! In our next episode we will continue playlearning together!