

Too Many Tomatoes

Lessons and Activities

Too Many Tomatoes is a rhyming, rhythmic garden story. The language is bouncy and silly and filled with fun. Here are a handful of activities to help you share this book.

A Garden of Garden Books

Combine this story with other garden books such as Ruth Krauss' classic *The Carrot Seed* and *Secrets of the Vegetable Garden*, written by Carron Brown, published by Kane Miller Books.

Counting

Use the illustrations as an opportunity for counting practice.

- How many tomatoes can we find on this page?
- How many bees?
- How many cars and trucks?

Language Prediction

As you read the story aloud, leave out end rhymes and encourage the kids to predict the missing word.

Example: Down to the sidewalk, and down to the street,
 drippy and slippery, juicy and _____.
 Red ones and yellow ones, shiny and round,
 jumbling, tumbling over the _____.

Tomato Parade

Conduct your own tomato parade, inviting the kids to march while the story is being read again or while chanting "One tomato, two tomato, three tomato, four! Five tomato, six tomato, seven tomato, more!"

Instruments and other parade ideas...

- Make tomato shakers from plastic Easter eggs filled with rice, lentils, or beans and covered in red paper maché. Glue a green felt tomato stem star to the end.
<http://www.thislittleproject.com/2009/05/how-to-make-homemade-maracas.html>
- Create paper plate tambourines decorated to look like tomatoes.
<http://www.busybeekidscrafts.com/Paper-Plate-Maraca.html>
- Make tomato-themed flags or pennants for the kids to carry while marching.
- Kids can make and wear tomato headbands. (See design next page.)

Planting Tomatoes

Plant tomato seeds using styrofoam cups and potting soil for kids to take home and care for.

Tomatoes in a Basket

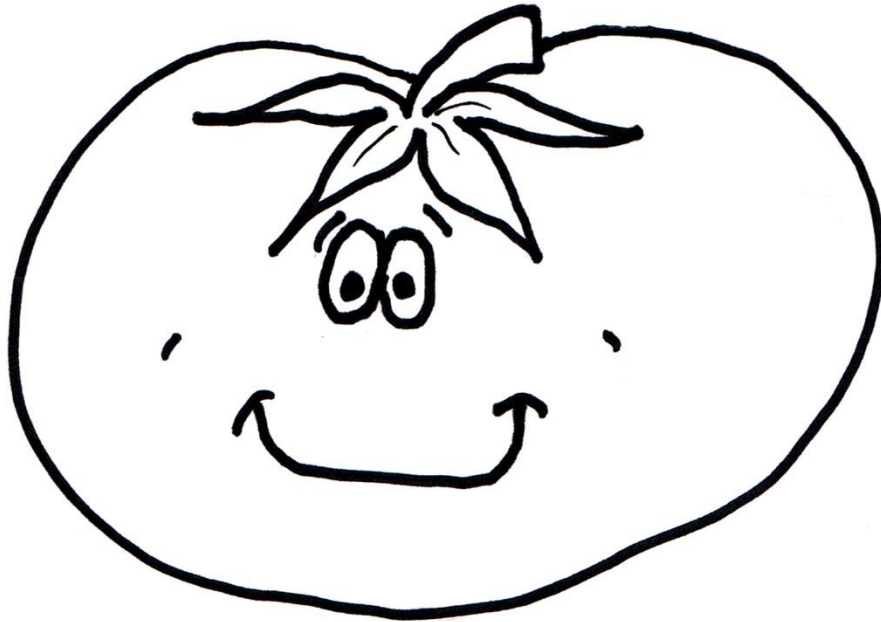
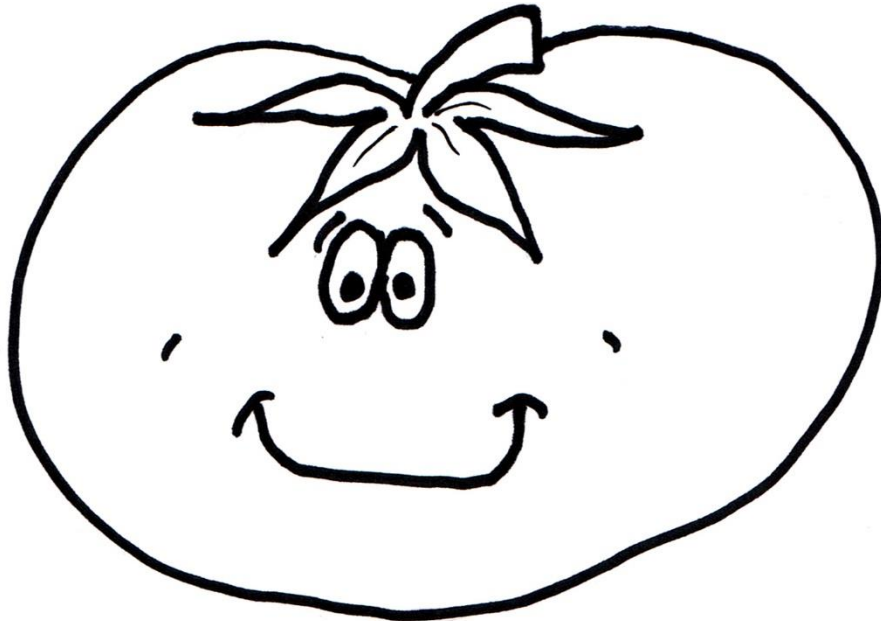
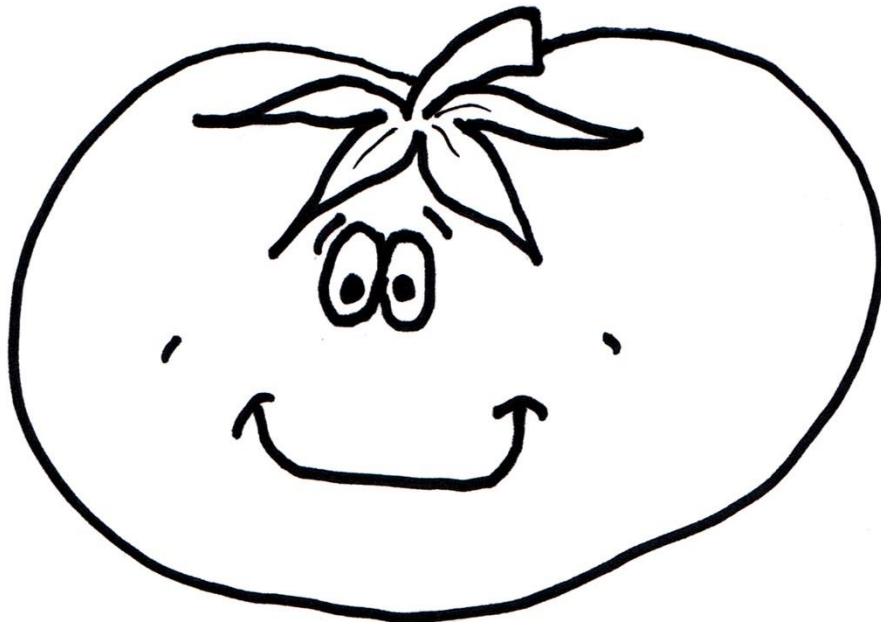
Have the story leader put out a basket and as many red balls (tomatoes) as they can round up. Give each child one. As the story leader reads the pages "one for the teacher...." have them come up one at a time and put their "tomato" in the basket.

After the reading, count the number of tomatoes. Depending on the kids present, you could do some simple math. Ask one kid to put 2 tomatoes in the basket, and another kid to put in 2 more. Then count=4, take one out, then 3, etc.

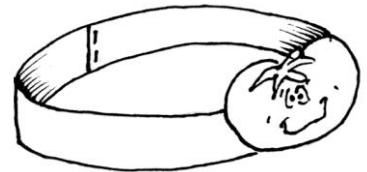
Too Many Tomatoes

Written by Eric Ode and illustrated by Kent Culotta

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Tomato Parade Headbands



Have kids color tomatoes. Cut long, green strips of construction paper for headbands. Loop and staple to proper lengths. Glue or staple tomato to headband.