Title: Up, Down, and Around
Author: Katherine Ayres  Illustrator: Nadine Westcott
Book Summary: Corn grows up. Potatoes grow down. Tomatoes twine round and round. Carrots, beets, and pumpkins are growing all around. Join the children as they move with their garden.

Before Reading, use the following conversation starters to engage your child’s interest in the book.
To stimulate your child’s interest, ask your child to look at the picture. Use open-ended questions to encourage him/her to describe what is in the garden.
To develop book awareness, talk with your child about what the words “author” and “illustrator” mean. Ask your child if s/he would like to write a book or draw the pictures. What would the story be about?

During Reading, use the following ideas to keep your child actively engaged in the book sharing.
To encourage personal connections, talk with your child about the vegetables. Which ones does s/he like? How does your child like to eat the veggie—maybe in soup or salsa? Which ones would s/he like to try?
To work on vocabulary, encourage your child to describe the veggies and garden. Then add details to introduce new words. For example, if your child says, “There’s a pumpkin,” you can reply, “Yes, there are orange pumpkins growing on the curly vines.”

After Reading, use the following activities to extend your book sharing experience.
To develop gross motor skills, play fun games like “Mother May I.” Encourage your child to go “up,” “down,” and “around.” Practice skipping, hopping, and twirling.
To encourage personal connections, take your child to the grocery store or farmers market. Talk with your child about the fresh veggies and fruits. Which ones does your child like? Choose new ones to try.
To stimulate learning in the kitchen, include your child in age-appropriate, safe ways when preparing foods. Could s/he measure ingredients or wash the fresh produce? Show your child how to set the table. Read recipes together as you cook. Talk with your child about favorite, family recipes. Encourage him/her to create recipes and write them down—as a family keepsake.