April’s Topic

**GARDEN HELPERS**

- Gardening is a fun and interesting hobby for people of all ages. It is not hard to grow beautiful flowers and delicious vegetables, with a little help from nature.

- Plants and seeds need three things to grow. Water, sunshine, and dirt. Nature provides all three!

- Earthworms dig tunnels through the dirt. When it rains those tunnels fill with water and the thirsty plants get a drink.

- Insect pests like grasshoppers and caterpillars may chew on the leaves of garden plants. Hunters such as spiders, praying mantises, ladybugs and snakes help our gardens by eating these insects.

- Bees visit flowers to drink nectar and collect pollen. Bees store the pollen in their hive and eat it later, while nectar is turned into honey and eaten during winter.

- While the bees are on the flowers, they accidentally carry some pollen from flower to flower. When new pollen lands on a flower, it helps that flower to make seeds!

- Gardens help nature too. By feeding wildlife, preventing erosion, and cleaning the air!!!

Book suggestions: *Planting a Rainbow*, by Lois Ehlert  
*Pumpkin, Pumpkin*, by Jeanne Titherington