



Water Plants Together 1

Decorate watering cans, share water, and solve small problems together as your child practices playing with another child.

Helps Your Child Grow



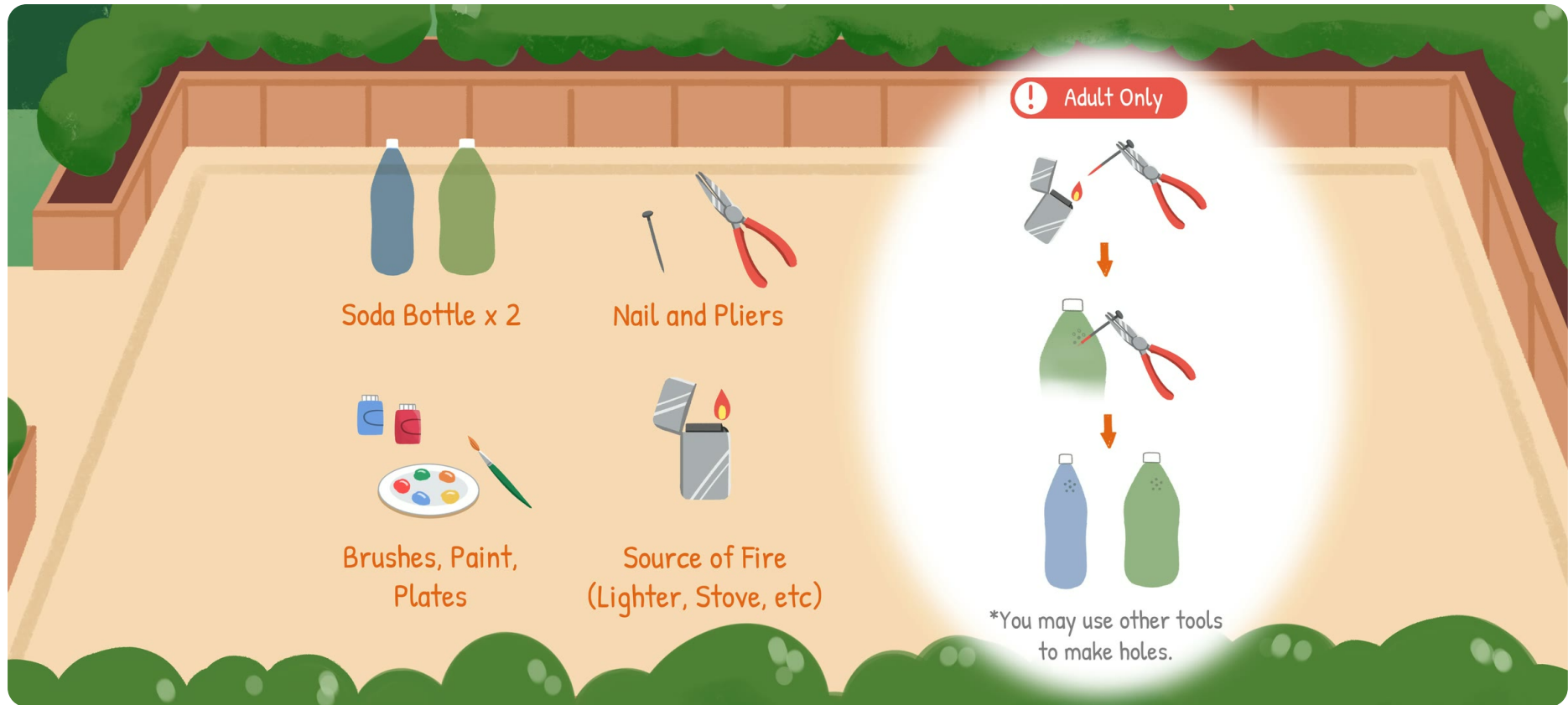
Relationships with Other Children

Showing how to begin a conversation and creating real opportunities to help and cooperate gives your child practice interacting with another child.



Cognitive Self-Regulation (Executive Functioning)

Continuing until each plant has been watered gives your child practice following through on a familiar care routine.



What You'll Need

1. Two empty drink bottles
2. brushes, paint, and a palette
3. a lighter, a nail, and pliers. Before the activity, use the heated nail to make holes in the bottle caps and turn the bottles into watering cans



Start with a Shared Interest

Before watering the plants, invite the children to decorate their watering cans. When your child notices the other child's design, model how to start a conversation about something that interests them: "I see a big blue flower. What are you painting?"

Observations

- Studies the other child's watering can and wonders what they painted
- Describes what they painted on their watering can

Tips

- At three, children are often interested in peers but may not know how to begin talking with them. Your example can help your child take the first step.
- If your child has not noticed the other watering can, draw attention to one specific part of its design.
- If making holes with heat is not convenient, use bottles with squeeze-top caps as watering cans.



Make Room to Help

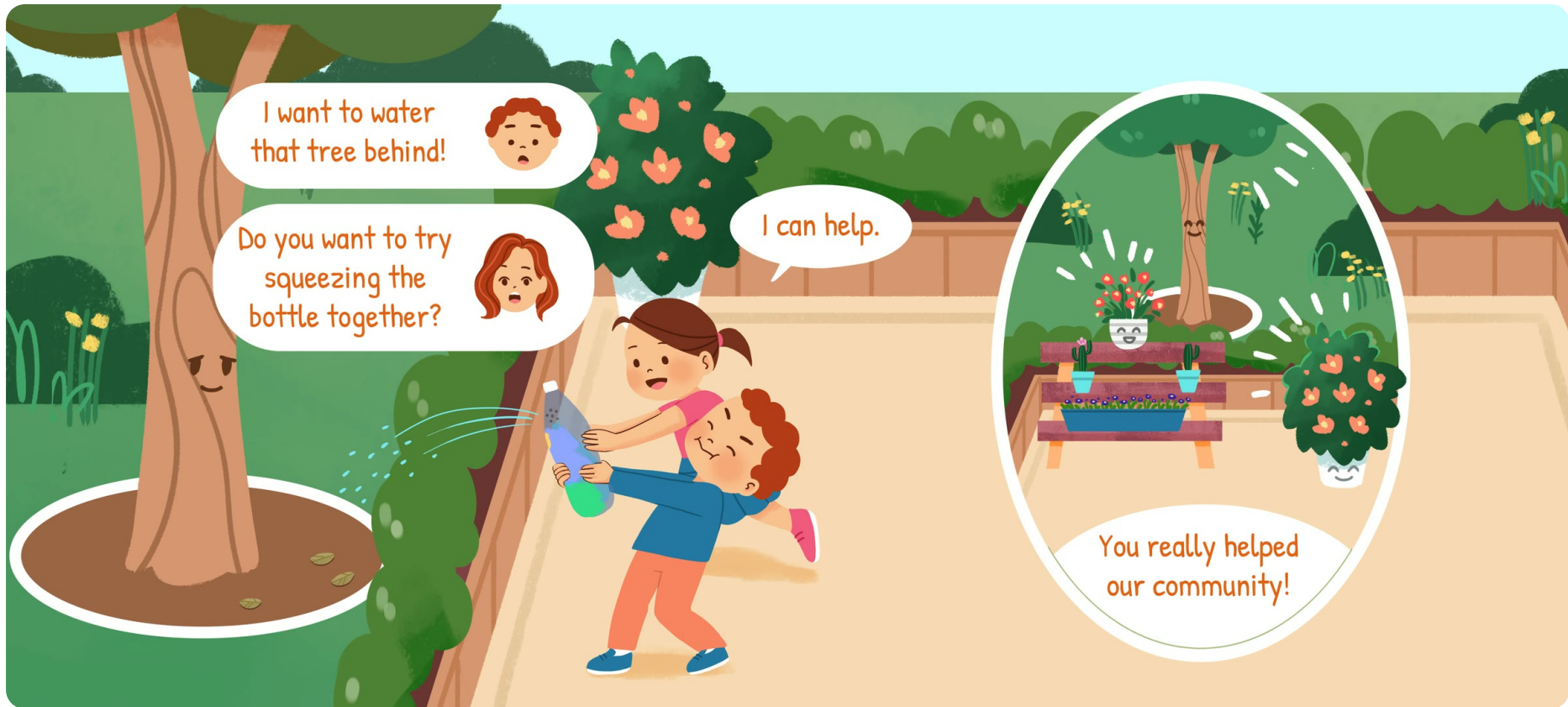
Fill the decorated bottles and begin watering. Watch for a moment when one child needs help. Guide your child to ask the other child or offer support, creating a natural chance for them to help each other.

Observations

- Finds a way to help when the other child runs out of water
- Pours water from one watering can into another

Tips

- Look for simple ways to connect the children. You might ask, "Could you take her with you to refill the watering cans?"
- A real exchange makes sharing and caring more concrete than an abstract reminder. It can also make playing together feel warmer and more enjoyable.
- When the other child helps, draw your child's attention to what their friend might need too. They could hold a bottle steady or pass over a watering can.



Solve It Together

As the children become comfortable together, notice a task that works better with two people. Offer one idea to get them started, then see whether they can make a plan and solve the problem together.

Observations

- Keeps going until every plant has been watered
- Explains their idea clearly while working with another child

Tips

- When your child offers help or cooperates, describe it warmly: "You held the bottle together. That worked!"
- Name the result of their teamwork: "Thanks to both of you, the whole garden has water." This makes the value of cooperation easier to see.
- If the first plan does not work, invite both children to try another position, squeeze with two hands, or hold the bottle together.