Find or create a sunny area in your garden with deep (2 ft), very fine soil, or use raised beds filled with a fine potting mix. Carrots need 8+ hours of sunlight!

Gently use your finger or a stick to make a line in the soil of your garden or raised bed. Poke your finger in the soil to make a hole every ½ inch or so. You can also use a hard rake! Poke the rake into soil gently to make small, evenly spaced holes. Give at least 12 inches of space between each new row. Cover with ½ an inch of fine soil or potting mix. **This cover will help the seeds to stay where planted and keep birds from eating them!**

Plants need water, just like people do! Use a watering can to simulate rain drops. Make it a routine with your kid to check the soil’s moisture, and water daily if dry! Make sure to keep the soil moist, but not soggy.

The seeds will germinate (or start to sprout) within 2 to 3 three weeks. During germination, watering is extremely necessary – if seeds dry out they won’t grow!

Once the seeds have sprouted, it’s time to thin the rows. Pull out overcrowded carrots so they are 3-4 inches apart. This helps so they don’t need to compete with each other for water and nutrients in the soil.

Remember to water consistently. For carrots, soil moisture is critical and the improper levels can result in poor taste. Yuck!

Harvest times vary depending on the variety – some may be ready to harvest within two months, where others will take 75 to 100 days. Check out the back of the seed packet and place a reminder on your calendar to pick some “test” carrots to see if the group is ready to harvest.