

# Creating a Children's Garden: Growing Gardeners

Presented by: LeeAnne Gelletly and Merikay Smith

**Let your garden be a place for** having fun, observing, working, sharing, inspiration, imagination, connecting with nature.

**Figure out what you and children want in a garden:** What appeals to your children? What interests your children?

## **Plan your Garden:**

**Plants** – choose plants for child-appeal (shapes, colors, textures, scents, taste, plants names, etc.); plants that support pollinators, birds, and wildlife; garden themes as a basis for plant selection; avoid poisonous plants

**Water** - add a water feature, simple works; keep it safe

**Structures and Pathways** – scale to children; be creative; paths and structures should engage children with the garden

**Decorations** – include art especially child-created; whimsical garden design and elements; things kids move/make sound

## **Good gardening practices**

- Right plant, right place – follow sun/shade and soil pH, moist/dry recommendations for each plant
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) – select pest resistant plants, use least harmful method to control pests
- Safety: Use care but don't scare

## **Engage children in planning, digging, planting, weeding and watering – at an age/interest appropriate level**

- Child-sized tools
- Even a short garden visit can engage a child in gardening

## **Visit children's gardens**

- **Children's Garden at American Horticultural Society**, River Farm, 7931 E Boulevard Dr, Alexandria, VA <http://www.ahs.org/about-river-farm>
- **Children's Garden at Brookside Gardens**, 1800 Glenallan Ave, Silver Spring, MD; also **Brookside Nature Center** [www.montgomeryparks.org](http://www.montgomeryparks.org)
- **Children's Garden in the U.S. Botanic Garden**, 100 Maryland Ave SW, Washington, DC <https://www.usbg.gov/>
- **The Enchanted Woods at Winterthur**, 5105 Kennett Pike, Wilmington, DE <http://www.winterthur.org>
- **Indoor Children's Garden at Longwood Gardens**, 1001 Longwood Road, Kennett Square, PA <http://longwoodgardens.org>
- **Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens' Children's Garden**, Agricultural Farm History Park, 18400 Muncaster Rd, Derwood, MD <https://www.extension.umd.edu/mg/locations/demonstration-gardens>

## **Visit other gardens**

- **Adkins Arboretum**, 12610 Eveland Rd, Ridgely, MD [www.adkinsarboretum.org](http://www.adkinsarboretum.org)
- **Children's Garden at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden**, 1800 Lakeside Ave, Richmond, VA <http://www.lewisginter.org>

- **Meadowlark Botanical Gardens**, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Ct, Vienna, VA  
[https://www.nvrpa.org/park/meadowlark\\_botanical\\_gardens](https://www.nvrpa.org/park/meadowlark_botanical_gardens)
- **Surreybrooke Gardens and Nursery**, 8537 Hollow Rd, Middletown, MD  
<http://www.surreybrooke.com/>
- **U.S. National Arboretum**, 3501 New York Ave NE, Washington, DC <http://www.usna.usda.gov>
- **Woodend Nature Sanctuary**, 8940 Jones Mill Rd, Chevy Chase, MD  
<http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/index.php/sanctuaries/woodend-chevy-chase-md>

### Visit gardens online

- Michigan 4-H Children's Garden, Lansing, MI <http://4hgarden.cowplex.com/>
- Brooklyn Botanic Garden Children's Garden [http://www.bbg.org/discover/gardens/childrens\\_garden](http://www.bbg.org/discover/gardens/childrens_garden)
- Children's Garden at Hershey Garden <http://www.hersheygardens.org/attractions/childrens-garden>
- Everett Children's Adventure Garden <http://www.nybg.org/gardens/adventure-garden/>
- Norfolk Botanical Garden World of Wonders Children's Adventure Garden  
<http://norfolkbotanicalgarden.org/explore/wow-childrens-garden/>

### Read books with gardening themes

#### Picture Books

Carle, Eric. *The Tiny Seed*. Natick, MA: Picture Book Studio, 1987.

Creasy, Rosalind. *Blue Potatoes, Orange Tomatoes*. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books for Children, 1994.

Ehlert, Lois. *Eating the Alphabet: Fruits & Vegetables from A to Z*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1989.  
\_\_\_\_\_. *Planting a Rainbow*, 1988.

Hood, Susan. *Rooting for You*. New York: Disney Publishing, 2014.

#### Gardening Books

Dannenmaier, Molly. *A Child's Garden: 60 Ideas to Make Any Garden Come Alive for Children*. Portland: Timber Press, 2008.

Kuskowski, Alex. *Super Simple Butterfly Gardens: A Kid's Guide to Gardening*. Edina MN, Abdo Publishing/Super Sandcastle, 2015

\_\_\_\_\_. *Super Simple Fairy Gardens: A Kid's Guide to Gardening*.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Super Simple Kitchen Gardens: A Kid's Guide to Gardening*.

Morris, Karyn. *The Kids Can Press Jumbo Book of Gardening*. Toronto, Canada: Kids Can Press, 2000.

### Research online

- Home and Garden Information Center (HGIC) <https://extension.umd.edu/hgic>
- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center <https://www.wildflower.org/>
- National Gardening Association Kid's Gardening [www.kidsgardening.org](http://www.kidsgardening.org)

### Garden activities

Brown, Renata Fossen. *Gardening Lab for Kids: 52 Fun Experiments to Learn, Grow, Harvest, Make, Play, and Enjoy Your Garden*. Beverly, MA: Quarry Books, 2014

Cohen, Whitney and John Fisher. *The Book of Gardening Projects for Kids: 101 Ways to Get Kids Outside, Dirty, and Having Fun*. Portland, Oregon: Timber Press, 2012.

Lock Deborah. *Ready Set Grow! Quick and Easy Gardening Projects*. New York: DK Publishing, 2010.

Lovejoy, Sharon. *Roots, Shoots, Buckets & Boots: Gardening Together with Children*. New York: Workman Publishing, 1999.

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Additional Resource List by Pam Hosimer

## Websites to Encourage Garden Learning

1. **ARKive**  
<http://www.arkive.org>  
Play a game (Example: click FUN, click GAMES, scroll down to Team WILD, click PLAY NOW, follow the instructions)  
  
**OR** watch a carnivorous plant eating an insect video (Example: click SPECIES, click SPECIES GROUP, click PLANTS AND ALGAE, scroll down to VENUS FLYTRAP, click on ALL 1 VIDEO, click on PLAY)
2. **Cornell Lab of Ornithology:**  
<http://www.birds.cornell.edu>  
This site provides extensive bird resources and information  
**eBird:** Intuitive site that is simple and fun to use. Create an account, mark your favorite bird watching spot on a map and input information about the birds you've observed.  
<http://ebird.org/content/ebird>
3. **Creating a Pollinator Garden**  
<http://www.kidsgardening.org/classroom-projects/creating-pollinator-garden>  
Step by step on how to create a garden enjoyed by all
4. **Dawn Publishing**  
<http://www.dawnpub.com> 3D Pop-up Apps and free downloadable activities that add amazing sounds and activities to their books (Example - click ACTIVITIES, scroll down to NOISY BUG SING-ALONG)  
<http://www.dawnpub.com/activities/bug>
5. **Explore Live-cams**  
<http://explore.org/#!/live-cams/player>  
Whatever the live-cam is watching...  
[http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/program/fieldscope/?ar\\_a=1](http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/program/fieldscope/?ar_a=1)
6. **Kids.gov**  
<http://www.kids.gov>  
Up to date information produced by government programs on almost any topic you can think of.
7. **NeoK12**  
<http://www.neok12.com>  
Time-lapse video of bush beans growing over a 24 hour period  
<http://www.neok12.com/video/Plants/zX6515707a0f466267725159.htm>
8. **The Popcorn Board**  
<http://www.popcorn.org/>  
Encyclopedia Popcornica's "Popcorn in slow motion" video  
<http://www.popcorn.org/AboutUs/Media/PopVideos/tabid/114/Default.aspx>
9. **U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council**  
(available in English and Spanish)  
<http://www.blueberrycouncil.org>  
Blueberry salt recipe.  
<http://www.blueberrycouncil.org/blueberry-recipe/blueberry-salt>  
Awesome video of the narrator riding in the blueberry picker!  
<http://www.blueberrycouncil.org/growing-blueberries/how-blueberries-grow/>
10. **Video Narrated by a Monarch Butterfly**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ry4hqn0WD60>  
The life cycle of a Monarch butterfly as told from the perspective of the butterfly.  
Appropriate for students in early elementary school.

## 10 Inspiring Books to Read with Children in the Garden

1. Bingham, Caroline. *Smithsonian: Everything You Need to Know about Bugs*. New York, NY: DK, 2015.
2. Butterworth, Christine, and Lucia Gaggiotti. *How Did That Get in My Lunchbox?: The Story of Food*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2011.
3. Gibbons, Gail. *The Vegetables We Eat*. New York: Holiday House, 2007.
4. Gray, Rita, and Kenard Pak. *Flowers Are Calling*. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015.
5. Hansen, Amy, and Robert Kray Clement. *Bugs and Bugsicles: Insects in the Winter*. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2010.
6. Leedy, Loreen, and Andrew Schuerger. *Amazing Plant Powers: How Plants Fly, Fight, Hide, Hunt, & Change the World*. New York, NY: Holiday House, 2015.
7. Messner, Kate, and Christopher Neal Silas. *Up in the Garden and down in the Dirt*. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 2015.
8. Micucci, Charles. *The Life and times of the Honeybee*. New York: Ticknor & Fields Books for Young Readers, 1995.
9. Reynolds, Aaron, Peter Brown, and Lizzy Bromley. *Creepy Carrots!* New York, NY: Simon & Schuster Books, 2015.
10. Silverman, Buffy. *Can You Tell a Butterfly from a Moth?* Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, 2012.

## 10 Practical Books to Create a Magical Experience in the Garden

1. Bartholomew, Mel. *Square Foot Gardening with Kids: Learn Together: Gardening Basics: Science and Math, Water Conservation, Self-sufficiency, Healthy Eating*. Minneapolis, MN: Cool Springs Press, 2014.
2. Brown, Renata Fossen. *Gardening Lab for Kids: 52 Fun Experiments to Learn, Grow, Harvest, Make, Play, and Enjoy Your Garden*. Beverly, MA: Quarry Books, 2014.
3. Burns, Loree Griffin., and Ellen Harasimowicz. *Citizen Scientists: Be a Part of Scientific Discovery from Your Own Backyard*. New York: H. Holt, 2012.
4. Burris, Judy, and Wayne Richards. *The Life Cycles of Butterflies: From Egg to Maturity, a Visual Guide to 23 Common Garden Butterflies*. North Adams, MA: Storey Pub., 2006.
5. Gourley, Robbin. *First Garden: The White House Garden and How It Grew*. New York: Clarion Books, 2011.
6. Hengel, Katherine. *Garden to Table: A Kid's Guide to Planting, Growing, and Preparing Food*. Minneapolis, MN: Scarletta, 2014.
7. Mikula, Rick. *The Family Butterfly Book: Discover the Joy of Attracting, Raising & Nurturing Butterflies*. Pownal, VT: Storey Books, 2000.
8. Porter, Adele. *Cooking for the Birds: Recipes to Attract and Feed Backyard Birds*. Cambridge, MN: Adventure Publications, 2010.
9. Tornio, Stacy. *Project Garden: A Month-by-month Guide to Planting, Growing, and Enjoying All Your Backyard Has to Offer*. Avon, MA: Adams Media, 2012.
10. Walliser, Jessica. *Good Bug, Bad Bug: Who's Who, What They Do, and How to Manage Them Organically (all You Need to Know about the Insects in Your Garden)*. Pittsburgh, PA: St. Lynn's Press, 2011.