

Resources for gardening with children

The Ian Potter Children's Garden, Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne

This magical garden is designed to encourage children's 'delight in nature' and help them 'discover a passion for plants'. It 'celebrates the imagination and curiosity of children and fosters the creative nature of play'. Information at http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/rbg_melbourne/ian_potter_foundation_childrens_garden

Collingwood Children's Farm

An organic farm on the banks of Melbourne's Yarra River, designed to give city children a taste of farm life. www.farm.org.au

Kindergarden: An introduction to the many ways children can interact with plants and the outdoors.

Ideas for gardening with kids in school and community gardens.

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/kindergarden/kinder.htm>

Gardening for Kids

The Gardening Launchpad has loads of links to activities and curriculum for gardening with children

<http://www.gardeninglaunchpad.com/kids.html>

Growing Kids

Numerous garden activities, things to make, grow, watch and learn.

<http://www.global-garden.com.au/gardenkids.htm>

Living Earth Games

Gaia's Garden, a co-operative board game where players plant vegies and outwit pests using organic methods and Living Landscapes, a permaculture card game. <http://www.livingearthgames.com.au>

Books

Roots, Shoots, Buckets & Boots: Gardening Together with Children Sharon Lovejoy, Workman Publishing Company New York, 1999. 176 pp.

Garden adventures plant care, garden craft, organic theme gardens like pizza patches, snacking and sipping gardens, projects designed to 'cultivate wonder'.

Gardening with Children Beth Richardson Taunton Press, 1998. 153 pp.

Aimed at gardening parents seeking to involve children in the garden, contains organic gardening basics, plant selection ideas, and special projects.

A Child's Garden: 60 ideas to make any garden come alive for children, Molly Dannenmaier, Timber Press Books, 2008

Inspiration for creating magical gardens for children, full of secret hideaways and sensory delights, trees to climb, creatures to encounter, soil to dig, and much to learn.

Visit your local library for more books about gardening with children.

Children's books about gardening

And the Good Brown Earth, Kathy Henderson, Candlewick Press, 2008

Nan and Charley visit the vegetable patch together for digging time, thinking time, planting time, weeding time, watering time, and eventually feasting time, with a little help from the good brown earth.

Jody's Beans Malachy Doyle, Candlewick Press, 2002

Jody and Granda plant scarlet runner bean seeds, and Jody cares for them, watching and waiting, as they grow.

Growing Vegetable Soup Lois Ehlert, Voyager Books, 1990

Bold pictures illustrate the journey from seed to table of a pot of vegetable soup.

Two Little Gardeners Margaret Wise, Random House (Little Golden Book Classic), 2006

Two young gardeners prepare the ground, plant seeds, hoe weeds, make scarecrows, and finally feast on and preserve their bountiful harvest.

Our Community Garden, Barbara Pollack, Beyond Words, 2004

About a group of children playing and working in a San Francisco community garden, where they tend their plots after school and grow food for a community feast.

Mrs. Spitzer's Garden, Edith Pattou, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2007

A teacher plants seeds outside her classroom and lovingly tends them as they grow.

The Garden of Happiness, Erika Tamar, Harcourt, 1996

A group of New York neighbours work together to turn a vacant block into a community garden where people plant vegetables that remind them of their childhoods.

The Ugly Vegetables, Grace Lin, Charlesbridge Publishing, 2009

While their neighbours make flower gardens, a mother and daughter plant their garden with Chinese vegetables. The girl thinks their garden is ugly, until her mother harvests and cooks a delicious soup which smells so good it brings the neighbours knocking. Includes ugly soup recipe.

City Green, DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan, HarperCollins, 1994

A girl and her neighbour clean up a vacant block and begin planting seeds. Soon the whole street joins in to create an urban oasis. Includes information about starting a community garden.

From: **claire nettle** (2009) *Growing Community: Starting and nurturing community gardens*, Adelaide: Health SA, Government of South Australia and Community and Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association Inc.

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