



Garden-Based Sustainability Education Professional Development

Preschool Track: Day 3 Schedule
Thurs, July 23, 2015

9:00	About the garden Tactics to engage your school's community Tips to being a "lazy" successful gardener
9:30	STEM, Art, and outside cooking activities ideas in the garden
10:00	break to move to same classroom as Wed (Living Learning Center room 221)
10:10	About Lettuce Learn
10:20	Grant Writing Workshop
11:30	Homework sharing Wrap up and letters to yourself CEU forms Return name tags

About the ASU Child Development Center's "Lettuce Learn" Garden

- Began in Jan 2014 with \$500 student research grant, BIG vision, hardheaded determination, LOTS of volunteers
- In 2015 secured 2 more university grants: doubled gardening space, with sensory garden, outdoor classroom, & solar powered STEM shed
- Relies on outside volunteer support from mostly university students and student clubs: Sustainability & Environmental Education Club (SEEC) & Appalachian Student Dietetics Association
- First garden coordinator hired in March 2015: plans and leads weekly gardening lessons, in charge of maintenance and beautification
- Still figuring out ways to involve more staff and parents & to incorporate into year long curriculum
- Parent feedback has been extremely positive

Tactics to build support for your garden or learning garden program

At your site

- Seasonal/monthly/weekly garden newsletters (such as This Week in the Garden from Growing Minds) or make your own

- seasonal events such as:
 - Earth Day (April),
 - Garden Tour (Summer)
 - International Day of Peace (Sep)
- Garden wishing tree: write your needs on leaf or veggie shaped cutouts for parents to take home

Wider community:

- Find a way to manage garden parent/community volunteers such as www.SignUpGenius.com
- Make a list of your local newspapers and media outlets, learn how to write press releases (plenty of examples online), and send them to newspaper contacts: **copy and paste into email** as well as include attachment and access to high resolution photos.
- Create handouts when asking for donations... and take a fill-in-the blank donation receipt with you when you ask
- DOCUMENT YOUR PROGRESS!! Photos are worth 1,000 words. Weigh your produce. Keep log of square footage of gardening area. Record parent comments, etc.

Tips for being a “lazy” (but successful) gardener

- ALL ABOUT THE SOIL: good soil is key
- Organic fertilizers: Fish emulsion (also called fish fertilizer) & Compost tea. Depending on the health of your soil, apply weekly-monthly
- On-site compost bin: easy to make with pallets. Keep one empty so you can ‘easily’ turn it by shoveling it all into the empty bin... or just let it do it’s thing... it eventually will be perfect :)
- Make friends with an alpaca/llama farmer. Their poo is gold.
- Drip irrigation system (~\$24 from Lowe’s) SUPER easy to set up, although felt intimidating at first

Additional STEM, Art, and outside cooking activity ideas

STEM: measure, weigh, rain gauge, make charts, compare, build tomato teepees, plan and design garden expansion, make a map, solve a gardening problem, track the weather, learn about pollinators, learn the different parts of plants, learn the lifecycle of bugs....

Art:

- **Recycled garden peace flags:** use tyvek envelopes, paint, whatever else, and outdoor Modge Podge. Staple them around the garden
- **“Deer Spookers”:** make shiny, noisy windchimes out of recyclable materials and old kitchen gear (forks, spoons, hand-held blender pieces, etc)
- **Find peace in the garden and share it with the world:** hide little pieces of paper with “peace” in different languages throughout the garden. Make a big map of the world on a sheet. Find “peace” in the garden and discuss where on the map they might speak that language
- **(Sparkly) Rainbow Rocks!** have fun painting rocks. Add glitter.
- For fun: pumpkin bowling... use toilet paper as the bowling pins

Cooking (outside) with kids:

