

Wee Gardeners Nature Workshop Series
Children's Education in the Legacy Demonstration Garden
Developed and presented by Guilford County Master Gardener Volunteers
Guilford County Cooperative Extension Center
3309 Burlington Road
Greensboro, NC 27405
336-375-5876

Goals: The goal of our Wee Gardeners Nature Workshop Series is to introduce young children to the joys of exploring nature in an intimate garden setting. The children will use their senses to explore the garden and have fun being introduced to garden ecology and plant science through a hands-on learning experience.

Who's Involved: Rising Kindergartners ages 4-5 and their parent, grandparent, caregiver. Master Gardener Volunteers conduct the workshops.

How the Nature Workshop Series Works:

Registration prior to the beginning of each series is required because space is limited. We limit the number of children to ten or less to insure a good experience and individual attention for each child. The workshop series consists of two classes. Classes are in the Legacy Demonstration garden on two consecutive Friday mornings from 10am – 11am.

The first class is a "Discovery Walk". The children first gather for story time in the garden. Story time gets the kids thinking about what they might discover in the garden. After story time, the kids and their parent go on a guided sensory walk where EMG volunteers encourage them to pick up interesting treasures. As they gather their treasures they are encouraged to use their senses to look, touch, smell, and listen. Although this is guided, we are encouraging the children to explore and give them plenty of time to explore.

The second Friday is a class that introduces the children to the parts of a plant and what the plant needs to grow. It also begins with story time and the story is their first introduction to parts of a plant and its needs. Again, the children will use their senses and will move from story time to a special area of raised beds that are for the children to explore. Here they might find a ripe strawberry that they pick and eat fresh from the garden. They might also find a sweet snap pea that they can pick and eat right off the vine! The kids will plant their own seed or plant to take home.

Both classes end with a craft that the children take home with them. The parent/caregiver is given a photo magnet with their young explorer's photo to remember their time together during this workshop series.

Results: The result of our workshop series is simply to introduce young children to the joy of being outside, especially in a garden and to get them aware of the many "discoveries" they can find by using their senses and curiosity. We also want their caregiver to be part of the experience in hopes that they take their experience in our garden into their own backyards. Evaluations we received from the parents noted the Discovery Walk and eating the fresh peas and strawberries were their child's favorite activities.

About the Legacy Garden: The Legacy Demonstration garden is a garden created and maintained by Master Gardener Volunteers. This beautiful garden is approximately one acre of

land located behind the main building at the Guilford County Cooperative Extension Center. The purpose of the garden is to demonstrate the various types of plants and environmentally responsible gardening for the homeowner. The Legacy Garden consists of a variety of “demonstrations” that offer the people of Guilford County an interactive, hands-on learning classroom. The Legacy Garden demonstrates many different types of gardening such as a shade garden, native plants, water garden, compost bin, butterfly garden, vegetable garden, herb garden, rose garden, and installing rain barrels. A visit to the Legacy Garden will delight your senses. The garden is open every day from sunrise to sunset and admission is free.



Discovery Walk



Tasting a strawberry



Story time