

Tips for Working with Children in Gardens

Attendees of DC Schoolyard Greening's Get Out and Garden Teacher Training Workshop shared thoughts and experiences for working with children in a garden. Here's a list of collective wisdoms:

- Small groups are best.
- Do not give a child the hose.
- Start small.
- Sense of ownership - can divide space by classes
- Start traditions
- See results - grow salad greens
- Let children design (example of Marti's activity of adding white sand to seeds)
- Liter bottles with holes for watering
- Protect planted areas - clearly mark, use row covers
- Get salad spinners
- Make your own salad dressing
- Use colors
- Plant bulbs (cluster with hula hoops)
- Have older kids teach younger ones
- Incorporate literature
- Do soil testing with children
- Take time for journaling
- Fun to grow: popcorn, lufas (can make soap too), cotton
- Get donations - befriend Garden Center manager
- Don't try to do too much
- Let children cook
- Children will eat what they grow
- Find the stories behind the plants you grow
- Stickers and temporary tattoos make good prizes
- Just let the kids dig
- Look for bugs
- Incorporate arts and crafts
- Make garden signs with children
- Don't get too fancy

For more information, contact:

Kacie Warner
Education Coordinator
Washington Youth Garden at the National Arboretum
202-245-2709
www.washingtonyouthgarden.org
<http://washingtonyouthgarden.blogspot.com>