

KidsGrow Gardening Links to Learning

Interdisciplinary Learning and Cross Curriculum Links

Designing and Making

- Designing a school garden
- Produce for enterprise
- Signage and displays
- Watering systems

Using Technology

- Databases
- Spreadsheets
- Web research
- Digital photography

Environmental Education

- Managing ecosystems
- Environmental issues
- Diversity and complexity
- Interdependence
- Biological webs
- Cycles and dynamic balance
- Sustainable practices

Communication

- Interviewing community members
- Substantive conversations
- Multiliteracies
- Collaborative decision making
- Sharing information

Thinking

- Reasoning in an orderly manner
- Parts of a complex whole
- Solving problems

Aboriginal Education

- Bush tucker and medicine plants
- Traditional craft plants

Multicultural Education/LOTE/ESL

- Multilingual signage
- Cultural gardening practices
- Origins of plants

Gender Equity

- Sharing roles
- Rotating jobs

Literacy

Reading

- Research
- Seed packet directions
- Related fiction
- Work of classmates

Writing

- Information texts
- Research reports
- Journal entries
- Recording observations
- Creative works
- Letters of thanks
- Requests, invitations

Handwriting

- First and final drafts

Speaking

- Interviewing
- Expressing opinions
- Questioning
- Restating
- Summarising

Listening

- Following directions
- Understanding sequences
- Stories

Numeracy

Basic number operations

Estimating and measuring

- Length and area
- Volume and capacity
- Weight and mass

Gathering and organizing data

- Tallying
- Graphing
- Databases

Time and space

- Area
- Volume
- Scale
- Position
- 2-dimensional plans
- 3-dimensional models
- Timelines

Working mathematically

- Applying strategies
- Reasoning

Science

Science skills

- Investigating
- Observing
- Recording
- Measuring
- Predicting
- Testing
- Comparing
- Concluding

Earth and its Surroundings

- Weather
- Water cycle
- Soils and geology

Living Things

- Plant identification
- Plant growth
- Plant biology
- Needs of living things
- Life cycles

Personal and Social

Health

- Personal health choices
- Nutrition education
- Cooking with plant foods

Active Lifestyle

- Exercise
- Outdoor activity

Safe Living

- Lifting, carrying, digging
- Safety with tools

Personal Development

- Self esteem through success

Interpersonal Development

- Teamwork
- Co-operative learning
- Visiting garden businesses

Civics and Citizenship

- Developing a sense of community
- Roles, rights, responsibilities
- Stewardship
- Community service learning
 - Sharing produce
 - Flowers for seniors
 - Harvest celebration
 - Displays and exhibits

Society and Environment

Geographical knowledge

- Natural and built components
- School and local environment

Geospatial space

- Relationships with places
- Mapping school grounds

Historical perspectives

- History of gardening
- Timeline of school site

Reasoning and interpretation

- Hobbies and leisure activities
- Past and present data

Economics

- Costing a garden enterprise
- Wise resource use

Arts and Crafts

Visual

- Painting and sketching
- Graphic symbols
- Illustrating
- Gift cards

Performance

- Singing
- Rhythms of gardening
- Instruments from vegetables
- Drama - role plays
- Celebration dance

Craft

- Vegetable dyes
- Vegetable printing
- Scarecrow construction
- Mosaic pavers

Research shows that involving students in gardening activities and natural settings in schools through collaborative, hands-on, cross-curriculum, student-centred learning can lead to:

- Bio-psychological benefits - enjoyment, relaxation and lower stress levels.
- Environmental benefits - stewardship and care of the natural environment.
- Developmental benefits - enhanced physical, cognitive and emotional development.
- Academic benefits - better performance on standard tests, higher grade averages. (in reading, writing, maths, science, social and personal studies)
- Personal and social benefits - improved attendance, improved behaviour, reduced playground accidents, reduced boredom, reduced bullying and vandalism.