

Cultivate Wonder in Children in the Garden

Children, scientists and entrepreneurs all love to ask questions and learn by looking closely and doing things. We can encourage the cultivation of wonder, intellect, beauty and awe too.

What captures your attention? What are you curious about? How do you feel after stopping to look closely at, smell or touch something that interests you?

The plants in this Children's Garden are all safe to touch, smell, and examine. Please do! Children of all ages can get lost in looking closely at something, and enjoy watching something that changes and grows. Curiosity is fun! Watch the plants grow up each season. Be gentle with the plants and look out for them as you would a growing child.

Age appropriate learning activities

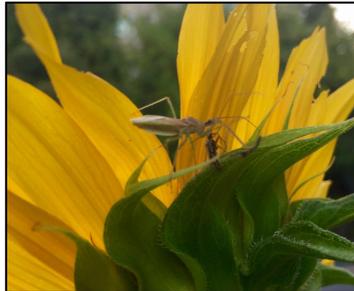
Soil is the basis of the garden, and kids around the world have fun making mud pies! Older students of all ages can enjoy learning about what makes dirt "soil", and the various aspects of soil that help different plants to grow.



Who lives here?

Plants live in communities and thrive when their needs are met. Just like us, they need food, water, and shelter, and individual plant needs differ. Not enough sun or too much water can make plants struggle to get by; some grow fastest and can become bullies. Look closely: Poke your finger in the top inch of soil. Is it damp? Do you see new leaf or flower buds? Are some leaves yellowing? If you see holes in the leaves, look for bugs on plants and the soil. Insects, bees and other pollinators live in and visit the garden too. They don't want to hurt you, they are looking for the food they need. Using a flashlight, look at night at the underside of leaves and rocks: you may find bugs eating or sleeping.

How do you get to know someone? Names and nicknames of the plants we meet are useful and fun too. Like people, plant shapes and sizes differ. We can identify plants when we see how their leaves and flowers are alike or different. The pollinators who like those flower shapes and colors best can find them easily. Both people and insects can be happy in the garden.



Designed and maintained by your Benton County Master Gardeners

