



Gardening with the Children

Approved by board on: 17th August 2023
Scheduled review date: 17th August 2025

Introduction

'Children can learn new skills, have fun, play and develop self-confidence by spending time in the garden tending plants and growing their own food. Most children enjoy being outdoors and love digging in the soil, creating things and getting dirty.' (Better Health Channel)

Gardening is an important part of Forbes Preschool. Seasonally, the preschool may have vegetable patches, flower gardens and worm farms that need to be cared for. The promotion of healthy, sustainable environments where educators, children and families learn and share ideas about creating an environmentally friendly education and care service are a priority within our service.

Purpose

For the children to be responsible for the garden; to explore and learn through the experience of gardening. Gardening will assist children in exploring their creativity, physical activity and help with self-confidence. The preschool have a dedicated yard for fruit trees and chickens to roam free.

Policy

When gardening with children safety is a high priority. Every precaution is taken to ensure children are protected from harm and hazard. Children and educators must have a hat and sunscreen on prior to going outdoors.

The way that hazards are addressed:

- Supervision – children are to be adequately supervised at all times.
- Storage – all shovels, wheelbarrows, soil, watering cans and gloves are to be kept in the lockable garden shed.
- Water hazards – Children are to be supervised at all times when using water. Any water that is in buckets or troughs is to be tipped out when not directly supervised.
- Health and Safety – children are to wash hands at the conclusion of any gardening experience.

When gardening Educators are to be aware of their roles and responsibilities. This includes:

- Being a positive role model
- Facilitating children's language development by introducing new words and questioning the children
- Sharing knowledge and providing additional materials as needed
- SUPERVISE

Children will be involved by:

- Having access and being responsible for using tools appropriately

Gardening with the Children

- Deciding what to plant (with Educators assistance)
- Weeding and turning soil
- Watering the garden beds
- Mulching garden beds
- Watching the produce grow
- Replanting and repotting

Children and Educators will work together by packing away tools appropriately, i.e. in the lockable garden shed.

At the conclusion of any gardening experience children and educators must wash their hands.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Educators will have the opportunity to introduce new foods to the children through these experiences, for example cucumbers, zucchinis, broccoli, brussel sprouts etc. Children will be able to cook with the produce grown.

Numeracy and literacy will be developed by discussing colours, shapes, amounts, labelling gardens and looking in books.

Other extensions will include excursions to nurseries, local farms and orchards, the community garden. Incursions will involve Netwaste and local farmers/gardeners.

Related Documents

- Sun Safety Policy
- Water Safety Policy
- Supervision Policy
- Storage of Dangerous Good Policy