

Gardening in Early Childhood Settings

California Kindergarten Association



This topic is so popular we are doing two Curricular Theme eBLASTs! Teachers suggested other great children's books and professional books, plus lots more lesson plans and activities. Feel free to send us your ideas on our webpage or Facebook page.

Developmentally Appropriate Guiding Principle #7 -- *Children are active learners, drawing on direct physical and social experience as well as on culturally transmitted knowledge to construct their own understandings of the world around them.*

Research

- Maturano, Arlene. "The educational roots of garden-based instruction and contemporary gateways to gardening with children" in *Kindergarten Education: Theory, Research and Practice: A Journal of the California Kindergarten Association*. Volume 4, No. 1. Spring, 1999.

[Click here](#) for Part I.
[Click here](#) for Part II.

[Lesson Plans & Activities](#)

Resources

1. **Gardens for Learning – from the CA School Garden Network in Irvine, CA**
http://www.learnaboutag.org/resources/gardens/gardens_learning.pdf
-- The absolutely definitive source of information about how to start gardening, tips for planning, curricular ideas, real-life examples from California school gardens, funding possibilities, lists of plants and their growing cycles, and how to gain support for your gardening plans. [Click here](#) for information about keeping your school garden safe over weekends or the summer.
2. **[Planting Smart: Tips for Garden Safety](#)** from the *Teaching Young Children*, published by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Jun/Jul 2012.
3. **National Kindergarten Association – [Curriculum on Flowers](#)**: May 2014 by Liz Blek.
4. **[Integrated Curriculum Unit on the Study of Apples](#)** – by Ada Hand of California Kindergarten Association
5. **[Print & Media Resources](#)** for educators.
6. **[Books & Technology](#)** for children

Media Tools

1. **Webisode 2 - Kids Gardening Fun** – YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGMotWQRb6A> good one
2. **Growing Plants & Vegetables Funny Video For Children, Planting Seeds of Change** – YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I8-_WsvzDY8
3. **[Reading a Garden](#)** – ASCD *Education Leadership* article of June 2012 by Valerie Bang-Jensen

