Kids Veggie Garden Club

A Case Study from the Bruce County Public Library

Michaela Posthumus | mposthumus@brucecounty.on.ca
Lead Branch Supervisor | Kincardine & Tiverton Branches
When Green Becomes Tomatoes
Poems for All Seasons
By Julie Fogliano

Summer

June 23
if you are looking for a quiet
that stretches
so far
that your ears begin to worry
do not go to the top
of a mountain in June
where it is breezy
and the sun is
more in and out than shining
because everything
at the top of a mountain
has something to say
about the breezes
and the sometimes sunshine
and the sea
that is everywhere
and already leaving
Weeks of Program

Week 1: Weeding and Planting
Week 2: Worms and Other Beasties
Week 3: Birds
Week 4: Bees
Week 5: Trees
Week 6: Beyond the Garden / Biomimicry
Week 7: Field Trip
Week 8: Harvest and Clean-Up
Weekly Badges
Field Trip

Bruce Botanical Food Garden in nearby Ripley, Ontario
Community Partnerships

Geddes Park and Kincardine Community Garden
A program designed to...

- Engage children in the outdoors
- Teach children where our food comes from
- Foster an appreciation for farmers and the work it takes to grow our food
- Bridge the generation gap by creating opportunities for kids to talk to adults about a common interest
- Gain respect for nature and how it all works together -- the bugs, the trees, the seasons, and ourselves
Our timeline

- **April & May**
  - Project planning and design
  - Contact presenters and volunteers
  - Solicit seed donations

- **June**
  - Planting seeds to start garden
  - Promotion and pre-registration

- **July & August**
  - Run program!
  - Last two weeks: hand out surveys
Survey Question #5:
What did you like most about the program?

I liked that it was about gardening.

Tasting beeswax and plants.

That I learned new things and had fun.

Practical participation outside. Positive support. Loved making crafts and took pride teaching parents afterwards.

When we went to Bruce Botanical Gardens and when we got to taste beeswax.
Considerations

- Pre-plant the vegetables so they are established
- Find volunteers to water and weed other days of the week
- Timing with library’s open hours and staff hours
- Don’t cram too much into one morning
- Base program numbers on garden plot size
- Allow exploration time over craft-time
- Don’t aspire to a perfect garden. Allow for mistakes and learning -- we are growing food, but more importantly we are growing a love of gardening!
What we grew...

- Tomatoes
- Carrots
- Peas
- Peppers
- Lettuce
- Cucumbers
- Dill
- Mint
- Chamomile
- Nasturtiums
when green becomes tomatoes
there will be sky
and sun
and possibly a cloud or two
when green becomes tomatoes
there will be leaves
and flowers tall and standing straight
and someone splashing, jumping, diving down
when green becomes tomatoes
there will be wings
and something inching, green and small
and a sweetly, sweetly chirping song
when green becomes tomatoes
there will be round
and there will be red
and there will be tomatoes
(more red than green)
(more round than seed)
(more on the vine than way deep down)
when green becomes tomatoes

Thank you.

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