JGP 2022: City in Nature Haven Schoolhouse @ Bedok North (RC0900) Adlynna Rahimi **Catherine Fernandez**

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Our Project Description:

Targeting the Kindergarten 1 and Kindergarten 2 classes, our school have decided to embark on a project to start a new community garden. In efforts to raise awareness about planting edibles, we worked with a "Community in Bloom" personnel to set up our garden. We then conducted a variety of activities for the children to learn all about edibles.



Our Project Objectives:

To be able to provide **<u>purposeful learning</u>** for the **<u>children to be involved</u>** in the <u>setting up of our</u> <u>community garden</u>.



Purposeful

Plan for interesting and engaging lessons

Involved

Allow opportunities for children to have a say in the project Set-up

Opening a community garden from scratch く會>



Week 1: Introduction to Plants

Scavenger Hunt search for specific plants around the neighbourhood



5 Senses in Nature do a simple 3 to 5 sentence story on their drawing







draw and colour the plants that they have discovered using various art mediums







Excursion Explore Hort Park with previous days' activities







Week 2: Food Composting

What is a Compost?

Learn about different types of food waste and composting





Composting Make their own composts







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Decorate compost bins in their own groups

Healthy Soil Learn about healthy soil and food waste in Singapore





Week 3: Cooking Edibles

All about edibles

Learn about different types of edible plants







Cookery session Conduct cookery session based on what the children have planned









Explore and choose a recipe to make for food fiesta

Food Fiesta cum Fathers' Day Prepare food for planting kit and make a wrap for daddies



Week 4: Planting our seeds Planting



Planted seeds in an egg tray



Decorating our bed Decorating plant beds using acrylic paint





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Transferring seedlings into pots



Transplanting Transplanting seedlings that are tall enough









Week 5: Sharing our discoveries



Filming of video

Children will brainstorm how they want to present their gardens to their parents/ the community

Sharing of video

Record and share video to parents/ the community and hand out feedback forms for parents to fill up



Excursion

Plan for an excursion to conclude IGP and for children to be engaged in the gardening scene in Singapore













Sat down to discuss what is our school's needs (came to a consensus)



Parents involvement (Fathers' day planting kit/ video tour)



Share knowledge gained during the IGP training sessions (Basic gardening workshop)



Let children have a say and hands-on experience in the garden





Securing resources



-suitable plants to grow -find out about best materials to use



Pros & Cons

-make a list of where to purchase -get more quotations for a more informed decision

Purchase

-one-stop store to purchase all goods -went physically to see the items



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Outcomes & Impacts Key outcomes to stakeholders:



Gained funds to purchase resources for garden

Community

Vegetable sales Workshop/ sharing sessions **Community volunteers**

Teachers

Gain relevant trainings and experiences that promotes positive selfgrowth as well as benefit the rest of the staff through peer-sharing

Children

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Gain knowledge and experience with various gardening skills

National

Be in contact with CIB personnel for them to share latest news about the gardening scene in Singapore

Outcomes & Impacts 分

How did we measure/assess the project outcomes?



Teachers

Teachers did lesson plan evaluations after conducting the activities. This will help them assess what was done well and what could be improved on in the future.





Children

At the beginning and end of each lesson, the children were given the opportunity to discuss and recall what was being covered. They also suggested many ways to further enhance their learning.





Outcomes & Impacts

Challenges faced



Seized the opportunity to conduct the activities with the current outdoor teacher-child ratio.



Our school's approach is Literacy based thematic approach. It was not easy looking for suitable books in our resources so we went to the library.

Pre-knowledge

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Gardening is a new experience for both teachers and children so we had to learn everything from scratch



Location

Due to unprecedented weather, some activities have to be improvised and conducted indoors.

Sustainability

How does your Centre plan to ensure the sustainability of the roject for the year after?



All the tools for gardening will be labeled and kept in the locked cupboard where they are accessible to all the teachers in our Centre. Usage

Teachers to ensure that the tools are responsibly utilized from year to year.



Lessons

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Lesson plans to be enhanced/modified by other teachers for different levels. This is a platform to launch a different approach to introducing gardening in our Centre.

Include the garden in school budgeting to replenish certain items/ refurbish the garden in the future.

Sustainability

How would you engage various stakeholders for support?

- Inform the various stakeholders about the objectives and plans of the project
- Communicate the project and activities by giving out letters, children-made brochures, etc.
- Invite some parents to share their knowledge/experiences if any through ZOOM session

How does your Centre plan to ensure that the project can be conducted with other age groups and/or other centres?

- planning and/or modifying lessons to be developmentally appropriate for each age group
 Cross-Centre sharing about experience of IGP (meetings/photos/videos)
- TA

<u>What form(s) of support would you require to ensure the</u> <u>project can be sustained in the long run?</u>

- teachers to continue utilizing the tools purchased and conducting the lessons for different ages
- school to show continual support by providing opportunities in the future to further expand our gardening resources
- come up with checklist of all the tools to ensure they are still in good condition



Reflections Teacher Adlynna

- I learnt a lot from the training sessions provided.

- Prior to this project, it felt daunting to teach the children something out of my comfort zone. However, toward the end of the project, the whole experience was enjoyable. There are many possibilities when it comes to teaching the children new skills.

- I learnt that children understand concepts differently and it is our job to provide a variety of activities for all children to have a hands-on experience.

- Through the planning stage, I learnt how to do proposals for external organizations (CIB, Nparks, Town Council, etc.)

- Lastly, I also learnt that not all children have the same interests. Therefore, planning an engaging lesson equipped with the relevant materials might interest the children.

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Reflections Teacher Catherine

- Gardening is not an easy things to do. Beforehand, I thought gardening will just be growing plants and watering them. However, it needs time and effort to keep your plants growing.

- Ensuring have enough water and removing weeds that are growing.

- Through this project, I learnt proper ways of growing plants and considering types of soil which suitable for the plants.

- I learnt the proper ways of cutting and replanting plants through the training

- During the Learning journey with the children, it gives me the knowledge and ideas of different plants.

- Plan lesson plans and evaluation are essentials to know which goes right and needs improvements.

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Summary

Has this project journey helped nurture a culture of innovation in your centre? Why? How?



- Yes. Creating a culture of innovation is important for finding better ways to innovate, increasing profits, increasing employee engagement and the overall health of the business.

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- Peer learning between staff
- Opportunity for something new
- Thinking outside the box



How has this project benefitted /contributed to the professional development of teachers/ benefited families and ultimately young children?

teachers gain relevant trainings and experiences that promotes positive self-growth as well as benefit the rest of the staff through peer-sharing
children gain knowledge and experience that they might not have been exposed to

