



PCF Sparkletots Preschool @ Eunos Blk 122

Garden WrenHeronRobin

“Our City in a Garden”

A collaboration with ECDA - NParks

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PCF Sparkletots Preschool @ Eunos Block 122

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Introduction

Given the broad nature of this project, we consulted our children and discussed the theme “Our City in a Garden” – to gain understanding of children’s interest and prior knowledge. We used resources provided by NParks and encouraged them to discuss what “City in a Garden” means to them.

We spent a week involving the children in the planning of project objectives and activities. The children were particularly interested in edible plants and wanted to create their own edible garden. The Project became primarily child – initiated, and resulted in children who showed heightened desire and responsibility for their own learning. We also brainstormed ways to integrate various learning areas in authentic learning opportunities.

Thereafter, the garden grew and attracted the attention of the public. Over time, the teachers and children established a relationship with parents and residents who now volunteer to care for the plants during school holidays.

Key Activities

Garden Cookery

At the end of the activity, children will be able to:

1. Discover herbs and vegetables using their senses
2. Plan a menu with ingredients from Garden WrenHeronRobin
3. Prepare ingredients, dishes and drinks for Children's Day



We went on a field trip to discover various herbs and vegetables that we could use in our cooking and to get inspiration for our Children's Day menu.

Garden Cookery



Along with ingredients we bought from the supermarket, we prepared herbs and vegetables we picked from our garden. We cooked ourselves a feast for Children's Day!



Garden Cookery

On Children's Day, we invited parents to join us in our celebrations. We read a book entitled 'The Ugly Garden' and gained appreciation for our own garden. Thereafter, we feasted on our dishes!



"This is the best children's party ever!" – **Kaelyn**

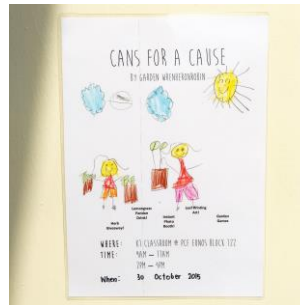
"I had so much fun because we cook our own food!" – **Adam**

"Our garden is just like in the book. When we cook the vegetables in our garden, all the people come and join us!" – **Xuan Ru**

Cans for a Cause

At the end of the activity, children will be able to:

1. Explain why it is important to show appreciation to the people who have helped out in our garden
2. Plant herbs in recycled cans and bottles
3. Plan activities and design posters for a community event



We started our garden with the Indian Borage plant and thought it fitting to give it back to the community. The children brought recycled cans from home and planted the herbs in it.

Cans for a Cause



- We made 'Thank You' bookmarks to giveaway to the residents along with cans of Indian Borage



"I gave the plant to the aunty, then the aunty smile and said thank you!"

– Paxton

"Aunty, you can have this plant. Thank you for taking care of our garden." – Sadia

Cans for a Cause



- Residents and parents joined us in a day of fun, games and appreciation
- Games were planned by the children themselves!
- They were proud to giveaway their plants

“I am so happy to see the children have fun in such a meaningful setting. I had no idea how tough it was to watch a whole class of children, and I only had 3 today!” – **Dhananjay’s mother**



“The event was very well done.” – **Adam’s mother**

Garden Diary

At the end of the activity, children will be able to:

1. Document and reflect on their observations and experiences in the garden
2. Write simple sentences using invented spelling
3. Use a camera to capture images of their observations in the garden



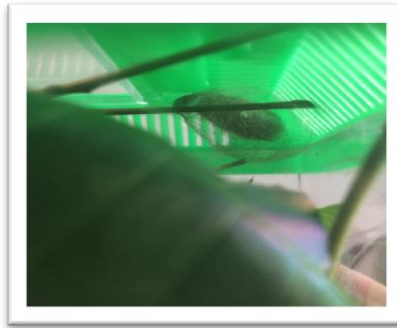
My plant is
now 3 unifix
cubes long!
- **Shasmeen**

"I saw a dead bee on the floor just
now. Maybe it died because there is
no honey"

- **Alesha**

"I take photo of my
plant, later it will
grow then I will take
again" – **Auni**

Garden Diary



- The children had opportunities to observe authentic specimens of caterpillars found in the garden, which eventually grew into moths. They also kept pet quails and watched how eggs were laid and later hatched into chicks. We also learnt recycle Fishy and the chicks' droppings to provide nutrients for our plants

Reflections

“I feel that the Innovation Project has given us plenty of opportunities for our children to explore learning beyond the classroom. It has also empowered my teachers to plan meaningful activities for the children and to connect with parents and the community. They even had hands – on practice on the planning and budgeting that goes into organizing events.

I am inspired by the culture of care and respect for the environment amongst the children involved in the project and it has even inspired the school to take on Discovery of the World as our niche. I am sure we will continue to cultivate the children’s sense of wonder and appreciation for living things around them .”



Ms Nora
Centre Principal

Reflections

“Thus far, I am heartened by the outcomes of the project. The children have shown marked appreciation for flora and fauna around them. The parents have also noted this change and some have given feedback that they are making greater effort to take their children outdoors to explore during the weekends!

It has also been a meaningful journey for me, planning purposeful activities that stem from the children’s interests. The children were especially proud to be gifting herbs to the community during Cans for a Cause and it made my heart so full watching them. I love the culture we have formed in our classroom – of appreciation, gratitude and a great sense of wonder! “



Aisyah
Form Teacher, K1 Heron

Reflections

“The Innovation Grant Project was very significant for me and the children. We learnt a lot from this project. I cannot emphasize enough how much learning we got from this experience. It was very remarkable and interesting not only for us, but even for parents and residents too.

Another interesting part of this journey with the children, were the Educational Tours to Singapore Botanic Gardens and NEWater Visitor Centre, daily Garden conversations, Children’s Day and Garden Cookery, Cans for a Cause, etc.

I must say that projects like this are no pieces of cakes, we needed to invest our time and effort to prepare. However, it was very fulfilling! 😊

I also believe that my partner, Syah, and I brought a culture into the K1 children, which fulfilled the goals of this Innovation Grant Project. This was a breakthrough in my learning experience. I would love to implement more projects like this in future.”



Jen
Form Teacher,
K1 Wren & Robin

Beyond the First Year



2016 onwards

- Developed Discovery of the World as niche programme
- Hosted and shared 'The Garden Project' with delegates from Japan and UAE
- "Our City in a Garden" Mentor
- Shared 'The Garden Project' at PCF Teachers' Convention 2016
- Mentoring PCF Ang Mo Kio for their garden project
- Annual Cans for a Cause
- Annual Garden Cookery

Thank you!