

Tips for Success



WHERE TO PUT IT?

It is important to make your garden **accessible** so that children can get to it easily and so that the children can see the **progress** of their plants everyday - try not to tuck your garden away. Your plants are also going to need plenty of sunshine, so a **good sunny plot** will get the best results. Water supply is another major factor in the location of your area. Try a site where it can be **easily watered** – preferably with waste ‘grey water’ – lugging water across playgrounds is hard work and time consuming!

WHAT TYPE OF GARDEN?

Keyhole Gardens and Bag Gardens can be made in various sizes - you might want to make a large Keyhole Garden or a couple of small ones. In the same way you may wish to make a few Bag Gardens in an area or get your children to make lots of Mini-Bag Gardens. It's really up to you. Try and think about what you want the pupils to learn about through the garden, how long you want it to last and what is realistic in terms of time, parental help and materials.

PLANNING THE PLANTING

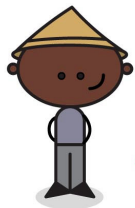
It is best to plan your area well before you plant if you can, you can involve the pupils in this and it will give you time to prepare properly, buy seeds and hold work days etc. If you are going to grow plants from seed try to time it carefully, timing will vary on the frost that year. Remember, you will need seed trays, compost and labels for seedlings. It is a good idea to find somewhere to keep seedlings so they can be watered and get adequate light (they can take up a lot of space.)

WATER AND MULCH

After planting, make sure you do plenty of watering if the weather is dry and ensure that there are arrangements for watering even during the holidays. To reduce the need for watering and weeding use a mulch on bare soil. This can be chippings, grass clippings, compost, cardboard or even old newspapers. You can get the children to help with this. Keep an eye on your plants, some may need deadheading, pinching, thinning out or staking to produce fruit or vegetables.

FINALLY...

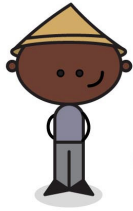
Don't forget to use and enjoy your area! Record the progress and changes in pictures. Celebrate what you have done with displays and signs. **And if you have grown vegetables, harvest and eat them!**



Termly Timings



	Outdoor Activity	Lesson Ideas	Practicalities
NOV	You could plant some crocus bulbs on the border of your garden area ready for Spring. Set up a compost bin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Look at compost, waste and recycling. - Start a class/school compost bin. - Look at vegetables and healthy eating. 	Identify a place to store materials. Identify parents who may want to help out. See where the garden may fit in whole school policy/curriculum e.g. Eco-schools, Healthy Schools, Global Dimension.
DEC	Maintain compost bin, turning when necessary. Choose your plot, cut any long weeds and lay cardboard boxes or several sheets of newspaper over to keep the nutrients in, then put grass clippings or mulch on top to keep it there.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduce an African country to your class, Lesotho, Uganda or Rwanda would be best. - Look at Mpho's case study - Do the 5 a day with Mpho lesson. - Draw up a garden plan on squared paper. 	Formulate health & safety criteria and who will be involved in the project. Write a letter asking staff and parents for materials, such as forks, plant pots, seed trays etc. Try and get your caretaker on-board!
JAN	Maintain compost bin, turning when necessary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduce SAC DVD – Life in Lesotho. - Go through discussion work on Karabo. - Look at food comparisons. 	Arrange a date for a meeting of staff/parents who will supervise. Arrange a date for materials to be brought in.
FEB	Monitor your crocus bulbs - take some pictures! Make the basket for a keyhole garden.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Show one of the garden animations. - Do Mpho's Food Miles lesson. 	Get materials delivered and cover ash/soil/manure with weighed down cardboard.
MAR	Dig over your plot and get building! Don't forget to mix in your lovely compost if it has been going long enough (turning will help it speed up).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Watch the Cabbages and Cowpats DVD and relevant Powerpoint. - Get pupils to create a vegetable display of their seed types. - Use Bag Garden Art lesson to decorate the bags. 	Get seed trays ready or ask pupils to bring in yoghurt pots/film canisters. Decide what and how many seeds to plant.



Termly Timings



	Outdoor Activity	Lesson Ideas	Practicalities
APR	Plant seed trays or in yoghurt pots to send home with pupils to look after during Easter holiday. Add compost to your basket.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Look at germination and growing plants. - Do the 'Beanfeast' lesson. - Print and colour signs for your garden. 	Make sure you have the right number of possible plants. Find out if all pupils are able to look after seedlings. Take pictures.
MAY	Plant your seedlings in sections. Decorate your seed lines with wool. Add a mulch if possible. Water your plants regularly – preferably with waste-water. Add compost to your keyhole basket.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Design menus of food that can be made with your vegetables. - Have a healthy lunchbox week. - Do the 'Lunch' lesson. 	Set up a rota for children to tend the garden. Take more pictures. Keep an eye out for pests. Consider using another Bag Garden for excess seedlings.
JUN	Keep watering, weeding and adding compost. Pinch out, thin and stake – harvest cropping vegetables.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weigh and measure any produce. - Make or add to your display. - Write reports about their garden experience. 	Organise a tasting or picking day for parents. Take pictures. Update display. Encourage children to grow their own speedy crops over summer holidays in Mini Bag Gardens.
JUL	Cropping plants can be harvested.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do an assembly about your garden and African children. 	Send in photos and Entry Form to Send a Cow for competition. Take plants home if you need to.
AUG	Pick crops and leave garden with a mulch for Autumn crops or plant new crops if garden can be tended.	Pupils could grow their own crops over the summer holidays – tomatoes, chillies, lettuce or courgettes might be good.	If you are leaving the garden, make a watering rota.