

# Discover the Children's Garden

The Children's Garden was the recipient of the Oregon Master Gardener Association's Award for Excellence in 2003 and 2013. Up to 72 children ages 5-13 experience all facets of gardening in age-appropriate classes that run from June through August. Garden-related topics include planting seeds, transplanting starter plants, watering, thinning, weeding, and caring for the garden through harvest. In the Children's Garden, we are growing gardeners!

## Look for:

- The fun, homemade labels for plants in a garden can be a great to get children involved, and to start working on their plant identification skills.
- Creating small garden beds that invite children to participate, can make gardening seem less overwhelming, and can be easily accessed with short arms. These small beds still grow a lot of food!
- Encourage children to help with the planning, seed selection, planting, and harvesting in the garden. If they grow it, they are more likely to eat it!!

## Garden Tips:

- Plant flowers and other plants that pollinators will visit that you can start to teach children about the important role that insects play in growing our food, and the health of the Earth.
- Add fun spots of color, wind chimes, fairy gardens, wind socks, scarecrows, and other creative touches to the garden to encourage children to explore and get inspired.
- Have child size tools available so that children can participate, and learn to use tools appropriately, safely, and responsibility. Then children can feel productive, have fun, and participate alongside you in the garden.

