

Gardening Is For All Ages

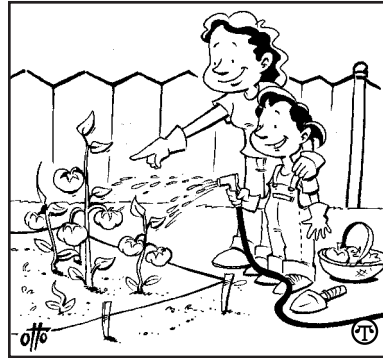
Learning Doesn't Have To Be A "Dirty" Word

(NAPSA)—Gardening is one of the best legacies parents can give their children. It helps create a love of the earth and joy in seeing things grow: and it provides an outlet away from an increasingly complicated and technological world. According to Children's World Learning Centers, a leading provider of early care and education programs in the United States, gardening also is a great way for children to learn all sorts of scientific concepts, such as:

- Vegetables don't grow in supermarkets.
- Sun, wind, water and cold affect plants.
- Plants follow a growth cycle from seed to plant to flower to fruit to seed.
- How to distinguish between weeds and vegetables.
- How to distinguish between different vegetables by observing their leaves.
- The effect of insects and diseases on plants, and what can be done to protect the vegetables.
- Pride and satisfaction in creating, maintaining and harvesting a garden.
- How to work together.
- A good feeling for working outside with nature.

When gardening with your family, keep in mind:

- Children make mistakes. They may pull out a plant instead of a weed or pick a zucchini before it's ready. Being prepared for these incidents helps avoid conflict.
- Be sure to emphasize the fun, discovery and sense of accomplishment, not the responsibility and hard work. That will come later. If a child is bored, cold, tired, or ready for something else, don't fight it.
- Remember, what appeals to



adults about gardening might not impress children. Try to support your child's enthusiasm in big worms, red roots, funny-shaped leaves and "plants that look like rabbits."

For anyone gardening with their children, there also are a few safety tips that should be observed:

- Never use gardening machinery around young children.
- Make sure your child doesn't eat any plants until you check them. Parts of some edible plants are poisonous.
- If chemical insecticides or fertilizers are used, follow directions carefully and keep your child out of the garden until it is safe.
- Young children put almost everything in their mouths. So, carefully watch the younger ones.

Children's World Learning Centers is a leading provider of quality infant, toddler, preschool, pre-kindergarten and school-age learning programs in the United States. Recognized for its developmentally appropriate curriculum and commitment to national accreditation, Children's World has been providing early childhood and elementary educational programs since 1969.