

GROUNDBREAKING GARDEN

Design a neighborhood garden



POSSIBLE BUILDING MATERIALS

- Box/Box lid/ Cardboard/Paper (for a base)
- Paper
- Toilet paper rolls
- Egg cartons
- Clean recycled containers
- Sticks/Other natural materials gathered outside

TOOLS

- Scissors
- Tape/Glue
- Crayons/Markers to label or decorate (optional)

TESTING MATERIALS

To show how the garden will be used by families:

- Small figurines or any small objects that represent people

SET UP THE PROBLEM

1. Gardens are a place to grow fruits, vegetables, and other plants and flowers.
2. Some neighborhoods have extra land that they use to build gardens for the people who live there.
3. Design a prototype (small, sample version) of a neighborhood garden so families have fresh fruit and vegetables.

ENGINEERING BACKGROUND

Landscape engineers design and create landscapes that have impact for humans.

LEARNING GOAL

Theory of mind involves thinking about the beliefs and desires of others. As children are creating a neighborhood garden, they will need to put themselves in the “shoes” of the people who will use it. They will need to think about which food items might be most useful to grow and whether there are other features that should be included in the garden to make it most usable.

✔ TIPS FOR ADULTS

Before building: Ask children to think about any gardens they have seen before “Tell me about any gardens you remember seeing before.”

Even if they have not seen a garden before they can brainstorm what families might find most valuable in a neighborhood garden “What types of fruit and vegetables do you eat at home? Are there other types of plants that you know about that you think families would want in their garden? What else should be included in the garden?”

As they build their garden prototype, ask them to describe the layout of the garden and components they are including “Tell me about the different parts of your garden”

Ask how the families will use the garden “How will families use this space? How many people can be in the garden at one time? Should there be other rules for using this space?”



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