

Preschool Gardening Family Engagement Ideas

Engaging families in preschool gardening activities strengthens home-school connections and fosters a love for nature. Below are creative ways to involve families in your gardening program.

[Early Childhood Education Lessons and Activities - KidsGardening](#)

1. Family Gardening Days

Invite families to participate in planting, garden maintenance, or seasonal harvest events. Provide simple, hands-on tasks for children and parents to do together, such as watering plants, pulling weeds, or harvesting vegetables.

Resources:

- [Kids Gardening: Family Gardening Activities](#)
 - [Fun garden ideas for families or informal groups.](#)
 - [12 Fun Garden Activities To Do With Your Kids](#)
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2. Take-Home Garden Kits

Create small gardening kits with seeds, soil, and simple instructions for families to grow plants at home. Encourage them to share progress photos or updates.

Resources:

- [National Gardening Association – Kids Gardening](#)
 - [Plants for Pre-K Gardens - KidsGardening](#)
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3. Storytime in the Garden

Host outdoor storytime sessions in the garden with books about plants, gardening, and nature. Encourage families to bring a blanket and enjoy a shared reading experience.

Book Ideas:

- *Planting a Rainbow* by Lois Ehlert
- *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle
- *Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt* by Kate Messner

Resource:

- [Reading Rockets: Gardening Books for Kids](#)
 - [15 Gardening Books for Children](#)
 - [12 Gardening and Plant-Themed Picture Books – HarperCollins](#)
 - [Growing in the Garden: Books for Young Children | Colorín Colorado](#)
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4. Garden-to-Table Family Cooking Events

Organize a simple cooking or tasting event using produce from the garden. Families can learn about healthy eating while enjoying fresh foods together.

 Resource: [5 Garden to Table Activities for Little Kids](#) | [Cooking with Kids in the School Garden](#) | [More resources for recipes](#)

1. mynewroots.org
 2. planeatmove.com
 3. snap4ct.org
 4. edibleschoolyard.org
 5. leannebrown.com (Eat Well on \$4/Day Good and Cheap)
 6. cookingmatters.org
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5. Gardening Journals

Provide children and families with simple journals to document plant growth, draw pictures, or write about their experiences in the garden.

 Resource: [Make a Field Journal - KidsGardening](#)

6. Family Garden Scavenger Hunts


Create a fun scavenger hunt with pictures or simple clues to encourage families to explore the garden together.

 Resource: [Scavenger Hunt in the Garden](#)

7. Multicultural Gardening Connections

Invite families to share plants, seeds, or gardening traditions from their cultures. Create a “World Garden” featuring plants from different regions.

 **Resource:** [21 Multicultural Children's Books: Growing Your Own Food](#)

 **Start Small, Grow Big!** These activities help foster a sense of community while encouraging young children to explore the natural world. Have fun growing together!