Flourishing with Herbs

Herb gardening is a simple way to introduce preschoolers to the wonders of gardening while encouraging healthy eating habits. By <u>planting and caring for herbs</u>, children learn about the growth process, the importance of sunlight, water, and soil, and the satisfaction of growing their own food. Herb gardening also offers sensory stimulation, with each plant's unique texture and fragrant smells, and helps develop fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination as the children dig, plant, and water their herbs. With so many benefits, why not give it a try; herbs are easy to grow and can flourish year-round. They don't take up much space and can be easily cultivated in a sunny windowsill or in containers outside. Here is a <u>great kit</u> that makes growing herbs simple and fun.

While herb gardening in child care settings can be a fun and rewarding experience, it is important to prioritize safety. Preschool-aged children should always be supervised by an adult when working in the garden, and appropriate tools, such as child-sized gloves and trowels, should be used to prevent injuries. You can also use organic soil and seeds, as well as avoid the use of pesticides or chemical fertilizers, which can be harmful to children's health. There are many herbs that are safe for children to handle and consume, like basil, chives, lemon balm, and many more.

Herbs are not only great for adding flavor and aroma to savory dishes, but they can also be used in snacks to create healthy and delicious treats for children. Try some of these easy herb recipes. There are many other exciting and creative ways to use herbs with preschool-aged children: make herb-infused water, create herb art, make herb sachets, or use herbs in science lessons. Herbs can engage many of the senses, making it a worthwhile activity for preschoolers. Not only is herb gardening a fun activity for kids, but it also promotes a lifelong appreciation for the environment and healthy living.



