



20th May 2024

Little green thumbs: British Garden Centres' ideas for National Children Gardening Week

National Children Gardening Week (25 May – 2 June 2024) is soon upon us which will encourage kids to love getting their hands dirty in the garden. Gardening isn't just about plants; it's a chance for kids to play outside, move around, and connect with nature. This special week will see NCGW team up with Peter Rabbit to show how gardening helps kids enjoy the outdoors, learn new things, and care for our planet. The British Garden Centres team has come up with some great ideas for children to explore nature, learn patience, and feel proud as their plants grow

Planting a Rainbow Garden

Transform your outdoor space into a vibrant, eye-catching rainbow garden by incorporating a variety of colourful flowers and plants sourced from your local British Garden Centres store. Let your little ones join in on the fun by helping them pick out seeds or young plants in different colours of the rainbow, and then work together to plot out a rainbow pattern in your garden bed. This engaging activity not only encourages children to use their imagination and creativity but also provides an opportunity for them to learn about the diversity of colours found in nature and the importance of plant care.

Building bricks planter

Following on from the colour theme, why not brighten up the garden with a planter made of toy building bricks? You will need enough bricks for the size planter you want to create, compost, and plants of your choosing from your local store. Children will have great fun constructing a planter, remember to enjoy you make some holes in the base for drainage. Once built, carefully remove the plant from its plastic pot and fill your planter with the compost. Nestle the plant into its new home, adding soil as needed to ensure a snug fit. Give it a good watering and find a sunny spot on your showcase the creation!

Garden treasure hunt

Are you looking for an engaging outdoor activity for kids that also fosters learning about the natural world? Create a treasure hunt list with items found in nature, such as different types of leaves, flowers, or insects. This fun and educational activity allows children to explore outdoor spaces like parks or their own gardens while observing and



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discovering the biodiversity and wildlife around them. Not only is this activity a great way to get kids moving and exploring the outdoors, but it also helps them develop observation skills and learn about the natural world. So, why not give it a try and see how much fun learning about nature can be?

Butterfly Garden

If you're looking to add some beauty and wonder to your garden, why not consider attracting butterflies? These delightful insects are not only beautiful to look at, but they also play an important role in pollinating plants and flowers. To encourage them to visit your garden, you can plant flowers like buddleia, lavender, verbena, scabiosa, sedum and echinacea which are known to attract butterflies. As they watch the butterflies flit from flower to flower, they'll also learn about the important role that insects play in pollinating plants and ensuring that our gardens and ecosystems are healthy.

Garden story time

Set up a cosy corner in a garden with bean bags where children can gather for story time sessions featuring books about gardening, nature, and the environment. This combines literacy with outdoor exploration and fosters a love for reading, nature and gardening.

Making birdseed shapes

Birdseed shapes offer an easy and budget-friendly crafting option for children in the garden. You will need some birdseed, unflavoured gelatine, and boiling water. Simply mix the gelatine and birdseed, press the mixture into greased-shaped cookie cutters, add twine, and allow them to dry before hanging them on tree branches or storing them for later use. These delightful shapes will bring joy to children and the birds that enjoy them.

Amy Stubbs, Project and Development Manager at British Garden Centres said: "Join us at your British Garden Centres store for National Children Gardening Week from May 25th to June 2nd, 2024. It's a time to ignite children's passion for gardening, encouraging them to revel in the joy of getting their hands dirty and watching life bloom. With our activity ideas this half term, we're on a mission to inspire the next generation to embrace the great outdoors with an opportunity for children to explore, learn, and connect with the world around them."



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Notes to Editors:

About the business:

British Garden Centres (BGC) is the UK's largest family-owned garden centre group with 62 centres around the country. The group is owned and led by The Stubbs family, who also own and operate Woodthorpe Leisure Park in Lincolnshire.

BGC was launched in 1987 with the opening of Woodthorpe Garden Centre by brothers Charles and Robert Stubbs. Since 2018 it has expanded rapidly with the acquisition of 50 garden centres allowing it to grow from its heartland to the business it is now with 62 garden centres spread from Carmarthen to Ramsgate, Wimborne to East Durham. The group has a team of 2,700 colleagues working across the garden centres, restaurants, 2 growing nurseries, 4 distribution centres, Woodthorpe Leisure Park, and Woody's Restaurant & Bar.

Social Media

Facebook: British Garden Centres

Twitter: @BGCentres

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Website: www.britishgardencentres.com

Contact

Cassie King - PR Officer

cking@britishgardencentres.com 07875 337290