

Ways to Plan and Design a Children's Garden



Let your imagination be your guide.

Important Planning Questions

Where will the children's garden be located?

- At a School
- Within the Community
- At a Nature Center or Community Center
- New Site



Important Planning Questions

Who will be visiting the children's garden?

- Just kids
- Families
- Public admission
- Educators and students



Now that you've considered where the garden will be located and who will be visiting it . . .

What will visitors see?

Consider these important elements when designing a Children's Garden:

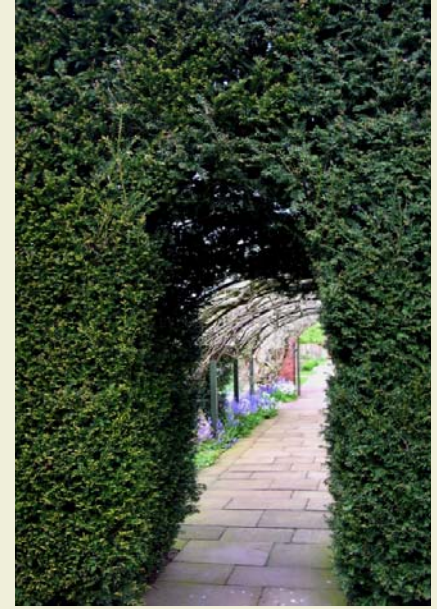
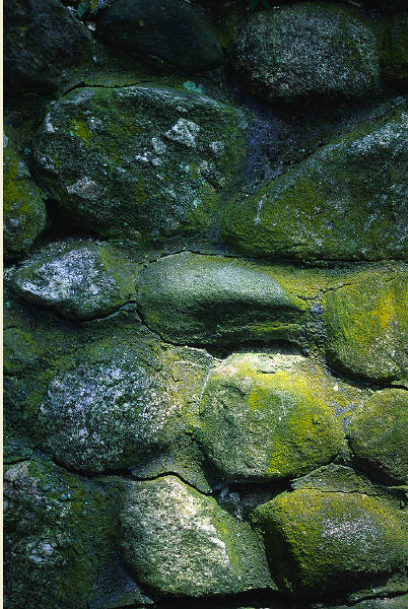
- Boundaries/Edges
- Paths
- Material
- Theme Gardens or Garden Rooms
 - Water Features
 - Wildlife
 - The Senses
 - Adventure
 - Entertainment



The Garden Edge

A landscape without a boundary is like a painting without a frame.

- Provides enclosure and increases child safety
- Can be living such as trees, hedges or shrubs
- Can be man-made such as walls or fences



Different Paths for Every Adventure

- Stone
- Concrete
- Wood chips
- Pine needles
- Gravel
- Asphalt
- Brick



Material Choices

Natural or Synthetic

- Seating



- Sculpture



Creating Garden Rooms

- Rooms may recreate **different** environments with plants and physical elements.

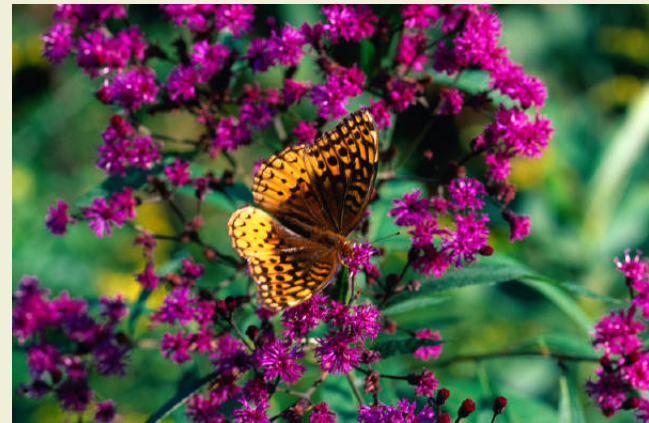
Example: Marsh habitat with aquatic plants and life size turtle for children to climb on.

- Rooms may have a specific theme with a **fun** educational component.

Example: Butterfly Garden signage teaches children about native butterfly species.

- Rooms must be designed **for children**.

Example: Seating in the garden must be an appropriate child height.



The Many Themes of Garden Rooms for Kids

Water Features

- Fountains



- Ponds



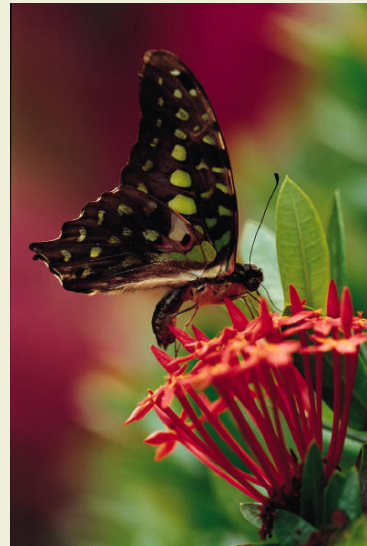
The Many Themes of Garden Rooms for Kids

Wildlife

- Cuddly Animals



- Interesting Insects



The Many Themes of Garden Rooms for Kids

The Senses

- Taste Fruits



- Touch Leaf Textures



- Smell Flowers



- Hear Nature



- See Life



The Many Themes of Garden Rooms for Kids

Adventure

- Green Spaces for running



- Secret Places for Hiding



- Low Structures for Crawling



- High Structures for Climbing



The Many Themes of Garden Rooms for Kids

Entertainment

- Corn Maze



- Transportation



- Amphitheatre



- Labyrinth



Words of Advice

Children's Gardens are not for adults, so if you have access to a group of kids ask them for ideas. It's their space. Let them participate in the planning process. You'll be surprised what children can create with a single crayon and some paper.

