

Licking County Master Gardener Volunteers Learning Center for Gardening

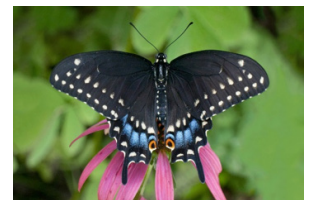
Our new children's garden is a cheerful place where children can play, observe, dig, create, and read. Designed especially for young explorers, the garden invites children to discover:

- A mini vegetable garden where children can identify vegetables as they grow, including tomatoes, peppers, bush beans, leeks, cucumbers, zucchini, carrots, and beets.
- A garden shed featuring tools farmers use to grow vegetables, such as rakes, stirrup hoes, shovels, and spades.
- A Discovery Dig Center where children can dig, play, uncover hidden objects, and use their imaginations.
- A wire house where children can gather, visit, and enjoy favorite fictional and informational books by beloved children's authors.
- A sensory garden filled with flowers that invite children to look closely, breathe deeply, and reach out to touch. Children can compare rough and smooth leaves, discover odd-shaped blooms, and enjoy familiar scents in surprising new ways.

Ask: What do you see? What do you smell? What do you feel?

WHAT GROWS HERE

Flowers and plants in the sensory garden include teddy bear sunflowers (which have fuzzy centers), rosemary, sage, blue bedder salvia, black and blue salvia (a hummingbird favorite), bronze fennel and parsley (host plants for black swallowtails—see photo), citronella, cleome, lantana, grapefruit mint, gomphrena, candy corn vine, lavender, daisies, cosmos, and zinnias.



HOW WE GROW IT

One activity offered in the Children's Garden is creating seed "cookies" sprinkled with native flower seeds to take home. Once the cookies are rewet, children can toss them into pastures, ditches, or backyards and watch for native wildflowers to grow which might be next spring!

RESOURCES

This article features helpful guides and other information:

<https://u.osu.edu/wildside/2024/04/17/creating-living-landscapes-for-birds-butterflies-bees-and-other-beneficials/>