

Early Childhood Education Programs

Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden is a place where children of all ages and abilities explore the wonders of plants in an interactive, hands-on environment.

Plants and plant-spaces stimulate children's senses and imagination, broaden their knowledge and invite exploration and adventure.

Programs are experienced-based, creating connections through gardening, play and stories.



Children's Garden Programs (1hour Children's Garden; 45 minutes wider Gardens)

Wonderful Water – Term 1 & Term 4

A water conservation program that explores connections between water and living things. Experiences include ponding in the wetland, floating leaves in the rill and the sensory exploration of plant adaptations to arid environments. Children understand that plants need water by potting a seedling to take home.

Homes and Hideaways – Term 1 & Term 2

This program explores the ways that plant material can be used as homes, for ourselves and other animals. Experiences include a discovery-walk to observe animals in their homes, cubby building, the sensory exploration of plant material and making an animal home with clay and plant treasures.

Food for Life – Term 2

A hands-on organic gardening experience where children do the real work in the Kitchen Garden and make connections between plants and food. Experiences include planting, digging, harvesting (the type of work will depend on the season), planting a seed to take home, meeting the worms and making a herbal tea bag.

Children's Garden closed during Term 3- *other programs are available*

Minibeasts – Term 4

Investigate the creatures we share our garden with, exploring how they live and how they help our gardens grow. Discover why plants attract and repel little creatures. Experiences include ponding, wormfarm, a discovery-walk, animal observations, sensory exploration of plants and making a pest repellent pot pourri.

A Garden of Rhythm and Rhyme – Terms 1, 2 & 4

An exploration of the connections between music, sound and the plant world. Experiences include: responses to the landscape through movement and music-making, exploration of plants as instruments and participating in plant-inspired rhymes and songs.

Plants the Dinosaurs Ate! - Term 1, 2, 3 & 4

Children journey back in time to Fern Gully to look for longnecks peering through the canopy of the rainforest, to look for dinosaurs' 'dinner plates' the Cycads, and to feel the prickles of the Bunya Bunya Pine. Experiences also include finding real plant fossils in shale.

You, Me and Murawee - Term 1, 2, 3 & 4

This program gives students a greater understanding and respect for Aboriginal culture in particular the local Kulin Nation. Through the story-book by Kerri Hashmi, students explore indigenous plants in the Children's Garden, collecting plant treasures and using Aboriginal tools. Experiences include grinding and painting with ochre, meeting Waa (the Raven) and making a 'belonging' handprint to take home.

General Programs (15 mins Children's Garden; 1 hr 30 mins wider Gardens)

Seasonal Experience – Spring, Autumn and Christmas programs

Use your senses to explore the wonderful sights, seasonal changes and stories of the Gardens and meet the plants and animals that live there. Children will pot a plant to take home, make pot pourri in the herb garden and collect garden treasures.

Group Bookings

- All groups visiting the Children's Garden will need to book through the Education Service.
- All current Early Childhood programs include a focus experience in the Children's Garden.
- All Education programs are 1 hr 45 mins duration, face-to-face, experience-based programs.
- Please ask us about the Children's Garden Teacher's Kit. We have two kits for early childhood teachers available on our website. Ask us for a copy if you are unable to access them.

Prices

\$9.60 per student (including GST)

Minimum Charge \$164.00 per group

Teachers, adults free (Maximum 8 per class group)

Session Times: 1hr 45mins duration

10.15am – 12.00 noon

12.30pm – 2.15pm

Teacher Professional Development

Please see our website for details

Workshops are also available on request.

**For further information and bookings,
please contact:**

phone: **03 9252 2358**

email: **edserv@rbg.vic.gov.au**

website: **www.rbg.vic.gov.au/education**

Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

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