



The Learning Team at RBGV Melbourne aims to provide inclusion and access for all children. RBGV Learning Facilitators can modify our programs for students with additional needs, including students learning English as an additional language.

	We provide
For children learning English as an additional language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning environments that are rich and provide experiences that are hands-on, sensory and physical. • Learning experiences that are highly social and provide opportunities for listening, speaking and interacting with students, teachers and parents. • Our programs such as Connecting to Country, You and Me Murrawee and the Aboriginal Heritage Walk provide a rich introduction to Indigenous culture. • A social script providing photos for the program “Introduction to the Gardens” is available on our website.
For children who use wheelchairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to get out of a chair and lie or sit in an alternative position to reach elements such as sand, water, grass, flowers and other natural elements that can be manipulated by hands or feet. • Places that a person using a wheelchair can be wheeled through or under to stimulate the senses e.g. plant tunnels or overhanging plants. • Activities that provide interaction at wheelchair level (front on) e.g. potting a plant, smelling and touching aromatic plants. • Raised garden beds in the Kitchen Garden in the Ian Potter Foundation Children’s Garden (IPFCG) and the Herb Garden that allow easy access, sensory immersion and exploration. • An accessible path to the pond in the IPFCG, and wide paths with varying degree of slopes, in the larger garden.
For children with limited arm and hand function, frail children or children with limited muscle control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children who are frail or have limited muscle control are more vulnerable in a busy play space such as the IPFCG. They may need more support and time to use certain activities and spaces to relax or gain their confidence. • Learning Facilitators are aware that limited ability to move freely often affects independence, access and participation and can limit which parts of the play space a child can use, and the speed at which they can move around and interact with a group. RBGV programs can be modified to meet the individual requirements of children in the group.
For children with sensory impairments	<p>For children with visual impairments;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bamboo and rope support to guide children through the grassy maze in the IPFCG. • Coloured cues at level changes in the Discovery Shelter near pond.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden edges, patterns and textures define pathways. Narrow paths meander through areas of taller plants, which invite exploration and provide a route to guide movement. • Wide, clearly defined pathways through RBGV. <p>For children who are deaf or hearing impaired;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication and social engagement may be more challenging. Learning Facilitators will consider the seating or positioning of a child in the group to maximize listening and watching and avoid sun glare. Learning Facilitators can modify their speech if they are working with an Auslan Interpreter in a program. • Please inform the Learning Facilitator if a radio frequency device is to be worn. • A social script providing photos for the program “Introduction to the Gardens” is available on our website.
<p>For children with a range of intellectual and cognitive abilities, including autism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Facilitators will discuss with the visiting teacher the specific learning difficulties, cognitive and communication needs of the students and adapt the program accordingly. • Some kinds of intellectual or cognitive impairments affect a child’s ability to perceive a challenging situation or potential hazard in a play space. The Children’s Garden is a fenced space which also provides ‘retreat spaces’ where a frustrated child can have some quiet time. • Some children are very sensitive to touch or have difficulty integrating sensory information. Others may be particularly sensitive to light, temperature and other environmental conditions. Learning Facilitators will discuss with the visiting teacher the specific needs of children in the group and adapt the program accordingly. • A social script for the program “Introduction to the Gardens” is available on our website.
<p>For parents and carers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents and carers are welcomed and valued in our educational programs. • Adults are encouraged to be actively involved in learning and play, as well as caring for children’s personal needs. • We provide seating for adults to relax and / or care for individual needs in the IPFCG and the wider gardens.
<p>Arriving by bus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible parking on Birdwood Avenue is close to the Observatory House School Entry, with a drop-off zone big enough for a small bus. Coach parking is provided and clearly marked and is adjacent to the entry point.

<p>Toilets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An accessible toilet is situated at the Visitors Centre, very close to the meeting area, and a number of accessible toilets are also available in other parts of the garden during the program (see Map). • The nearest toilets with adult change facilities are located at Traveller's Aid Australia at Flinders St Station - www.travellersaid.org.au/
<p>RBGV Melbourne services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Visitors Centre can provide the following information; T +61392522429 • The RBGV Melbourne Accessibility Action Plan; https://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/accessibility • Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne Map, which includes signage and access paths • The Garden Explorer is an electric motorized people mover which circulates around the Melbourne Garden hourly and can seat 23 people. There is a fee for this service. • Free use of wheelchair (with \$50 deposit) 9.00 – 5.00 pm daily • Carers Cards are accepted for Visitor Programs