

# CASE STUDY

THE GROWING SCHOOLS GARDEN

LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Food and Farming Zone

## Esh Winning Primary School, Durham

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## Why we got involved

- We have an established garden club in our school and this is its third year.
- The children thought it would be interesting and challenging to participate.
- It would give the children the opportunity to visit London.
- To give the children an opportunity to see professional gardens; something to aspire to.
- The children enjoy entering competitions.
- An opportunity for the children to represent county Durham at a national level.
- The children thought it would show that they care about the environment.
- The children have produced a good show of vegetables and flowers in previous years and they thought they could bring their skills to enhance the show.

## What we made for the Food and Farming zone

The children, with the help of a member of the community, made watering vessels out of recycled materials. Out of a lemonade bottle we made an attachment to fit on the end of a hose pipe and it works like a sprinkler. Using old plastic piping and a lemonade bottle we made a multi-water system that uses rainwater. We made a trickle watering system out of various-sized recycled water bottles, and we used washing-up-liquid bottles as watering vessels to water individual plants.

For other parts of the garden we made a gabion cage full of coal and old colliery bricks with a traditional proggie-style cushion made from plastic carrier bags on the top, plus a range of tree decorations using recycled materials.

## What we learned

The children now understand that recycling can benefit the garden. Through this project they also learned many new skills including how to co-operate and work as a team, and how to work and chat in an informal manner about important issues. The project has encouraged children to work with people from a wider community and with a wide age range - the youngest being 7 years old and the oldest 81.

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## Quotes

*'I was surprised I was able to sit still and concentrate for over one and a half hours.'* Brandon, aged 8.

*'I have learnt how to use things that other people think is rubbish. I can recycle things and make them into something useful for the garden i.e. watering vessels.'* Rachel.

*'I have learnt to use tools carefully and now understand health and safety issues around the garden.'* Bethany.

*'I have learnt how to make a proggie mat, like my great-grandmother used to make and I enjoyed the help I got from my gardening-club friends.'*  
Daniel, aged 7.

*'I have learnt to socialise with younger children in our school and I now know and recognise lots of plant names.'* Holly, aged 11.

*'I can now balance four bricks on my bicycle.'* Megan, aged 11.

## Other information

Other 'learning outside the classroom' experiences include a visit to a local nature reserve, and a commercial plant nursery.

## Helpers and sponsors

The gardening club feel that without the support of their family members the items would not have been ready in time, e.g. Mr Bramwell, Mrs Mills and Mr Ainsworth.

## Contact details

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