



Gardening with Social Distancing

You can use recycled containers with children for planting nontoxic seeds and plants, here are some ideas. Choose what containers you will use from the ideas below. Before you begin your gardening project, gather materials so that each child can have their own. Consider using bins or trays and taking it outside so there is plenty of room for children to be 6 feet apart. Try using plastic spoons or small cups if you have a limited number of shovels. A spoon could always then be recycled into a plant label after seeds/plants are planted (<https://homehacks.co/plastic-utensils-in-garden/>).

Label with children's names, the names of plants, or you could even date them and track their growth.



Water Bottle Planters

Take Gallon Sized Water Bottles (or smaller if that is what you have on hand), cut the bottom off, make some holes for some string, do this before giving to children. Now children can decorate and add soil and a plant.

You can try this with many plants and flowers!

Find info about this project here:

<http://bonzaiphrodite.com/2013/04/small-space-gardening-how-to-make-inverted-hanging-tomato-planter-out-of-plastic-water-jugs/>



Tin Cup Garden

(Please be mindful of sharp edges inside the can, this project may be more suitable for school agers) Reuse that Tin can that you would throw away or recycle. You can use any can from coffee to vegetable can. Make sure to put a few holes or stones in the bottom for drainage. Have children peel off the paper and paint them, let dry, then plant seeds or small plants.

Video: <https://youtu.be/XPogveJQ-WM>

Blog/article:

<https://www.triedandtrueblog.com/earth-day-recycled-tin-can-planters/>



Milk Carton Garden

Cut tops or side off milk cartons, poke holes in the bottom, do this before giving to children or have older children help. Have children paint, and decorate, let them dry and plant!

Find more info here:

<https://handsonaswegrow.com/flower-garden-kids>



Egg Carton Garden

Best with seeds. Give each child their own egg crate or cut into sections, label, plant, make sure to set something under them like a tray for moisture if bringing inside, the top of the egg crate lined with foil works fine too. Watch your seeds grow!

Video: <https://youtu.be/xYGsLHiceeY>

Article: <https://www.pbs.org/parents/crafts-and-experiments/grow-seedlings-in-an-egg-carton>



You can reuse milk containers or juice bottles for watering cans for kids by drilling holes in the cap!

Nontoxic plants to consider using:

beans, sunflower, nasturtiums, lettuce, peas, and much more!

Source: <https://learn.eartheasy.com/guides/gardening-with-children/>

More ideas for different containers:

<https://www.growingajeweledrose.com/2013/03/outdoor-nature-gardening-activities.html>

Please check DCYF WACS for specific gardening guidelines:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=110-300-0148&pdf=true>

