

Southborough LibGuide: Gardening for Kids

Although Earth Day is in April, let's celebrate Earth Day every day! We can each make a difference by doing little things like using a reusable water bottle, conserving our natural resources and planting a garden.

Consider planting seeds with children indoors, which you can then plant outside together. It's easy and fun!

Getting Started

All you need to get started is:

- A container:
Look around your house and think "re-use" rather than "buy new." You could use old k cups, egg cartons or yogurt containers. (Pro tip: be sure to poke a few holes in the bottom of plastic containers to let excess water seep through.)
- Potting soil
- Seeds
The Southborough Library Seed Exchange offers many seeds for FREE! Our selection varies but we generally have herbs and vegetables. Stop by and see what is available to start your garden.

Easy to Grow Flowers

- Sunflowers - Cone Flowers
- Marigolds - Bee Balm
- Nasturtium - Marigolds

Cone Flowers attract bees and Bee Balm attracts butterflies!

Easy To Grow Vegetables

- Lettuce - Radishes

These vegetables are considered easy and fast growing. Kids can eat what they grow in about 25 days.



Steps to Start Your Seeds

- Fill container with potting soil
- Moisten the surface (use a mist bottle if you have one)
- Make a hole in the soil (with a pencil or your finger!)
- Put 2-3 seeds in the hole
- Cover the hole with soil
- Put in a sunny, warm spot
- Keep the soil moist and in about a week you should see some growth
- Keep watch over them until your seedling grows about 2 inches
- Now it's time to plant outdoors. Be creative...you can plant directly in the ground or in a container
- Have fun with it and don't get discouraged. The important thing is to give it a try, learn from mistakes, and try again!

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Fun Resources for Families

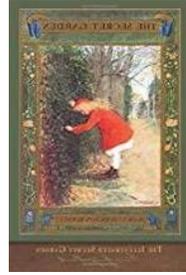
Enjoy these fun books and electronic resources with your children.



Tales of Magic: The Time Garden by Edward Eager
<https://cwmars.overdrive.com/cwmars-southborough/content/media/598991>



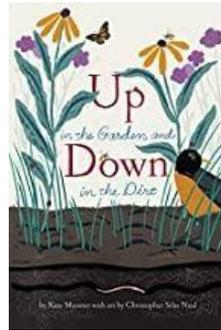
The Boxcar Children: The Garden Thief by Gertrude Chandler Warner
<https://cwmars.overdrive.com/cwmars-southborough/content/media/598991>



The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett
<https://cwmars.overdrive.com/cwmars-southborough/content/media/785094>



The Locked Garden by Gloria Whelan
<https://cwmars.overdrive.com/cwmars-southborough/content/media/246302>



Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt by Kate Messner
<https://cwmars.overdrive.com/cwmars-southborough/content/media/2056056>

Website

<https://www.kidsgardening.org>
Make sure to check out “Container Gardening for Kids,” “Grow Your Own Salad,” and “Seed Viewer.”

Share Your Progress

Be sure to take photos and email them to rdonovan@southboroughma.com so we can post them on our Facebook and Twitter pages. Remember to use hashtag [#sbllibSeeds](https://twitter.com/sbllibSeeds)