

# KidsGrow sustainable gardening principles

**School gardens cultivate not only plants and animals but also the academic, personal and interpersonal skills of the students who tend them. The KidsGrow themed garden plans and ideas for teaching and learning encourage kids to engage in:**



## Purposeful gardening

- Supports active learning and development of lifelong skills
- Involves students in co-operative, real life endeavours
- Encourages outdoor recreation and improved visual amenity
- Builds communities and opportunities for service learning
- Promotes stewardship of the school grounds
- Develops self-esteem and pride in personal achievements and effort



## Smart gardening

- Involves wise plant selection
  - Choosing the right plant for the right place
  - Choosing non-invasive plants
  - Choosing low allergenic and non-poisonous plants
- Incorporates sustainable gardening practices
  - Being waterwise – mulching, encouraging healthy soil, grouping plants according to water needs
  - Using organic gardening methods wherever possible
- Considers environmental impact
  - Optimising the nature friendliness of school grounds by nurturing habitats and encouraging biodiversity
  - Minimising negative environmental impact such as nutrient and water run-off



## Connected gardening

- Connects students to nature and to each other
- Links garden learning to the whole curriculum
- Considers gardening activities as part of the School Environmental Management Plan
- Develops awareness of the school garden ecology as part of the wider environment beyond the school fence
- Involves families, the wider community and cultures



## Fun gardening

- Stimulates exploration and imagination
- Encourages artistic and creative expression
- Provides a journey for the senses
- Inspires healthy outdoor activity and play

