

## **How Does Your Garden Grow?**

### **Community Objective**

To prepare, plant and maintain a plot of ground at a local park to be used as a flower garden.

### **Background**

Sunbeam Child Care Center, a small childcare center in a residential setting in Fairmont, WV, is a “School-Day Plus” extended day care participant. The concept is part of a movement to provide a nurturing, learning environment for elementary school children during times that school is not in session and their parents are working.

Children enjoy gardening. Whether they choose to raise seeds in a plastic bag, grow sunflowers in a raised bed, or plant carrots for their lunch. Gardening is an enriching activity for all ages of children. While they are having fun, they are learning valuable concepts that will help them later in life.

### **Challenged Student Conditions**

- ~Physically challenged students can be service providers in our garden project if we (1) include them in the planning, and (2) insure that physical facilities at the garden site are accessible.
- ~Academically challenged students can be service providers in our garden project if we (1) include them in the planning, and (2) demonstrate hands on planting techniques.

### **Resources**

- ~A local park with area in need of landscaping.
- ~Funding to cover transportation, plant supplies, tools, miscellaneous landscaping materials.
- ~Local Park Ranger.
- ~Local greenhouse supplier.
- ~Home Extension Agent.
- ~Potting soil, seeds, egg cartons, seedlings, 3-4 watering cans, hose and access to water supply, flower boxes, gardening tools, gloves, gravel or wood chips, sawed off logs (sitting stools)

WEST VIRGINIA'S  
SERVICE-LEARNING LESSON-PLANS  
FOR K-12 CHALLENGED STUDENTS

### **Timeline of Service Activities**

- April- ~Contact park.  
May ~Plant seeds.  
~Tour nursery/college or university greenhouse.  
~Schedule guest speaker from area Home Extension Office.  
June ~Plant flowers in designated areas.  
~Add mulch/wood chips.  
~Build and install sitting log.  
June-  
August ~Weed, water, and maintain garden plot.  
September ~Clean garden area and prepare it for winter.

### **Reflection**

- ~Each students will draw his/her vision of how the garden should look.
- ~Take photos before, during, and after planting process.
- ~Post pictures on bulletin board.
- ~Measure plants regularly and graph growth.
- ~Make a chart of the parts of a flower.

### **Celebration**

- ~Plan regular outings to the park to play and maintain the garden plot.
- ~Plan a picnic at the park.
- ~Invite parents to the picnic.
- ~Invite a botanist to talk to students about the flowers they have planted.
- ~Pick a bouquet of flowers from the garden and share with others, (nursing homes, hospital, etc.)
- ~Contact the local media (TV, newspapers, radio) to provide coverage of the students' accomplishments.

WEST VIRGINIA'S  
SERVICE-LEARNING LESSON-PLANS  
FOR K-12 CHALLENGED STUDENTS

## **Academic Objectives**

### **WV IGOs**

#### **Civics**

~Explain and experience the benefits of volunteerism in the community and at school (K.3, 1.5)

#### **Science**

~Explore/compare and contrast objects and events using the five senses. (K.3, 1.3, 2.3)

~Trust observations of living and non-living things in the environment and accept results of personal discoveries. (K.11)

~Understand that the study of living and nonliving things in the natural world integrates living organisms, earth materials and physical properties of matter. (K.27)

~Observe the properties of plants. (K.32)

~Identify needs of living things (food, water, light) (1.33)

#### **Process/Workplace**

~Given multiple tasks, prioritize them according to importance and prepare a time frame and schedule to accomplish the tasks. (PW.3)

~Stay with a task or assignment to completion. (PW.36)

## **Contact Information**

Helen Post-Brown

Sunbeam Child Care Center

1654 Mary Lou Retton Drive

Fairmont, WV 26554

Marion County

(304) 366-8590

Fax (304) 366-5006

SunbeamCCC@aol.com