

Gardening for Students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing



Gardens provide a wonderful learning environment for students who are deaf/hard of hearing.

While there are opportunities for incidental learning, it would be helpful to do some vocabulary preparation with the child beforehand. Books on common garden birds are very useful as the child and parent read the book together and learn the names of the birds. The

children may then bring the books out to the garden and see how many of the birds they can name, identify and draw.

Similarly, teach children the names of flowers and trees in the garden. Also the parts of the flowers – buds, leaves, stem, roots, bulbs – and trees – trunk, bark, leaves, blossom. The children will have heard these words before but it is good to reinforce their vocabulary through repetition. This would be a good opportunity to explain that “bark” may mean a part of a tree or a sound made by a dog. Draw attention to the colours and size or shape of grass, flowers, trees and shrubs.



It is always a good idea to plant seeds with children. Everyone loves to see flowers, plants and herbs growing! Planting involves preparing a place or a pot, using soil, fertiliser, seeds and water and eventually leads to the thrill of seeing seeds grow into plants.

Draw children’s attention to the sounds, sights and smells in the garden. It is also a great opportunity for children to draw, sketch, paint or colour what they have observed. Make the work in the garden enjoyable and a happy place for all the family.