

# How to fit a children's garden into a school year

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## Funding Ideas for School Gardens

- Get parents and the community involved
- Hold a school plant sale
- Involve local gardeners and gardening clubs – they are a great source of ideas, expertise, and labor
- Develop a power point and printed materials that you can share with potential grant providers. You might include information on:
  - cost of your project
  - goals and objectives
  - format of your project
  - materials needed
  - procedures
- Enlist the help of your local PTA – these organizations often have money that they award to teachers for extra projects. In addition, you can enlist the help of the parents and teachers involved in the organization as well.
- Enlist the help of local garden centers, businesses, and botanic gardens. Also, try local universities, colleges, and vocational schools – many of these organizations are willing to donate materials, labor, and expertise to your project.
- Check out sources on the internet. Here is a few to try:
  - Kidsgardening: grants for school and children's gardens  
<http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants.asp>
  - School Grant Calendar  
<http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org/GrantCalendar.php>
  - School Grant Opportunities <http://www.schoolgrants.org/index.htm>
  - California School Garden Network: Grants and Fundraising -  
<http://www.csgn.org/page.php?id=30>
- Check with your local extension service and your state's Department of Agriculture for available programs and information.
- Hold a school fundraiser
- Check with seed companies – they are often willing to donate extra seeds to schools for gardening and science projects
- Share your presentation with local clubs, organizations, and the school board

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## IDEAS FOR USING YOUR INDOOR GARDEN TO MEET CURRICULUM STANDARDS

### Math

- Measure the growth rate of plants or roots
- Chart and compare the growth rates of plants or roots
- Figure out fertilizer application rates are for your indoor garden
- Use math to figure out how many plants can be grown in a certain size area
- Learn fractions by using herbs for cooking

### Science

- Grow plants from seed and identify the parts of a seed
- Use your garden to talk about plant life cycles
- Use the plants from your indoor garden to identify plant parts
- Compare living and non-living things
- Use your plants to talk about the food chain
- Set up a science experiment using your indoor plants
- Learn about plant reproduction by propagating your plants

### Language arts/Writing

- Research the plants in your indoor garden
- Write a detailed description of the plants in your garden
- Give an oral report on one of your indoor plants

### Art and Music

- Decorate pots for your plants
- Determine the affects of music on plants
- Make up songs that teach plant information and perform them for your school
- Design plant labels for a school plant sale

### Social Studies

- Determine the role of plants in various cultures
- Determine which plants are of economic importance to various countries
- Study the role of plants in ancient civilizations

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## Health

- Discuss the role plants play in healthy eating
- Have a health fair and taste test edible plants from your indoor garden
- Find ways to spice up vegetables using herbs
- Learn about harvesting and preserving foods
- Discuss the importance of healthy plants in the food pyramid

## Sources for Building Your Own Light Cart

Build Your Own Countertop Herb Garden

[http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/446059/build\\_your\\_own\\_counter\\_top\\_herb\\_garden.html?cat=6](http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/446059/build_your_own_counter_top_herb_garden.html?cat=6)

Indoor Light Garden Construction Plan

<http://extension.usu.edu/saltlake/htm/horticulture/indoor>

Horizontal Hydroponic Unit Plans

<http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/factsheets/growflow/index.html>

Low Cost Grow-Light Frame Plans

<http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/factsheets/growlite/index.html>

Walter Reeves.com – includes instructions for building a propagation soil warmer and a portable PVC light stand.

## Sources for Buying a Ready-Made Light Carts or Light Garden Supplies

Kidsgardening.com

BuyPlantLites.com

Home Harvest Garden Supply - [www.homeharvest.com](http://www.homeharvest.com)

## Contact Information:

The Herb Society of America

9019 Kirtland Chardon Road

Kirtland, OH 44094

440.256.0514

[www.herbsociety.org](http://www.herbsociety.org)