

Safety Tips When Gardening With Kids

Working in the garden with kids requires a safe environment and some specific, firm rules so injury from sharp tools, chemicals and plants are avoided. Whether this is a home garden project or a school project, there are some easy steps you can implement to create a safe environment for kids in the garden!



Here are some gardening with kids safety guidelines:

- Test soil for chemicals and toxins before inviting students to participate.
- Review garden rules with children first.
- Discourage running and horseplay in the garden area.
- Teach kids about garden tools and what tools require supervision.
- Place sharp tools out of reach from children.
- Determine if any of the children participating in the garden program have allergies and make a list along with treatment options.
- Some weeds can be poisonous. Make sure the child is always wearing gloves and washes their hands thoroughly after working in the garden. Gloves should also be washed to prevent any oils on the glove from spreading onto the child's skin.
- Don't add poisonous plants to compost piles.
- It is best to avoid using chemicals around children, look for natural products that are safe and organic.
- If you are using chemicals in your garden, be sure to store them away in a locked cabinet.
- Children should not use any type of chemicals without adult supervision.
- Stakes used for identifying different plants should be taller than the children.
- Teach children to never eat anything from the garden without first asking an adult.

