

Program Report 2015

Kids Go Green! Environmental Center and Gardens: Our *Kids Go Green!* educational program is an instruction plan that is dedicated to the proposition that our backyard is the ecological center of our communities and our lives. How we understand our natural personal space is the key to understanding the ecological world around us and learning how we can improve the world one home at a time. Our children will learn how conservation works, on a personal level, by planning and planting a garden bed plot for a future user while harvesting a previous garden group's work. Here at the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge we call this form of garden practice "progressive gardening," growing things for a future group while harvesting the fruits of labor from others. In addition, the program teaches children about "Healthy Living", "Shades of Green" art in nature, and the path from garden to fork and instills healthy eating habits that can last a lifetime.

Kids in Action! is a sister program to *Kids Go Green!* Its intended results are to promote and encourage healthy lifestyles for families and children through a *Kids in Action!* healthy living exhibit and supporting programs that include in-house classes, day camps, museum after-school programs, outreach programs to area schools, and teacher workshops. An Outreach Healthy Living Kit (trunk) will be created and available for museum outreach presentations and classroom teacher use.

The exhibit and its accompanying programs will provide tools and opportunities to reduce childhood obesity through fun, positive activities and projects that support healthy nutrition. Results will be measured with the assistance of an outsider evaluator, using verbal feedback and surveys, on-site and online. Outreach program participants, students and teachers, will receive written and verbal surveys to determine the program's impact.

September 2015

- Working on *Kids in Action!* Traveling Trunks development with Education Director.
- Youth Advisory program conducted again this year serving about 18 children.
- *Kids Go Green!* general maintenance and upkeep of the facility. This fall our biggest challenge is defending the site against infestation and disease of trees and plant life.
- Have started the construction of the *Kids in Action!* Healthy Living Exhibit and implemented the *Kids in Action!* Healthy Living program activities summer and fall 2015.
- Wednesday's Willow Brook Explorers Eco Ed/garden program started its schedule and is ongoing.
- No Master Garden interns for the summer and fall programs.
- After-school will begin its Jr. Master Gardener program in October 2015 and will be planting cold weather plants: broccoli, cabbage, kale, red cabbage and mixed greens.
- Re-contacted the UT Extension office about Master Gardeners support - none at this time.