

WELCOME TO THE TEACHING SHED!

Please use this shed to help prepare and teach your garden lessons!

Generally, an effective garden lesson is about 45 minutes long. This basic outline is a great way to structure most garden lessons! Of course this isn't always the case - sometimes you have an activity or snack that ends up taking the whole time (like pickling), but this is a good jumping off point.

1 day before Class - Choose your lesson theme - do you want to talk about flowers? Bees? Colors? Whatever it is, choose a theme and sketch out the lesson plan. Go shopping for any supplies you might need for your craft or snack time.

15 minutes before class starts: Prepare your 'kitchen' - set up the 3-tier sink. Set aside the items you'll need for each section of the lesson - making it easy to move between one and the other.

5 minutes: Go over the Garden Rules and explain what you are going to be doing that day.

15 - 20 minutes: Do a 'garden' project - usually this looks like a few minutes doing some actual gardening (planting seeds, weeding, or trellising tomatoes), with the majority of this time being snack time! Make some pickles, chop up some salsa, spin up a salad - whatever!

5 minutes: Clean Up! If you have already set up your 3-tier sink, have the students be involved with the cleanup - they can wash their own dishes and you can wash the cooking utensils. Note: If you are working with a teaching partner, it is useful for one of you to assist students with washing dishes while the other person cleans up the tables, getting the ready for the next activity.

5-10 minutes: Read a garden book! This will calm the group down and prepare them for a transition. There are a handful of books in the shed, but feel free to visit the library - there are so many great children's books out there!

15-20 minutes: Do a Garden Craft! Write in your garden journal (or make a garden journal!), do leaf rubbing cards, paint bug rocks, decorate plant markers, make bee antennae headbands - do whatever fits with the theme of your lesson. Sometimes, in lieu of a garden craft I'll do another activity! It all depends on what you want to get out of the day.

5-10 minutes: Clean up and say good bye!

Be sure to take 5-10 minutes after each lesson to jot some notes down for yourself about what worked and what didn't.

GOOD LUCK, AND REMEMBER TO HAVE FUN!!!