

Curricular Connections Trainer Outline

Section Theme

This section introduces participants to a wide variety of educational school garden resources, including curricula and children's literature. We begin with an overview of subjects supported through garden-based learning, and then provide a structure for teachers to look more closely at some available garden-based education materials.

Logistics

Time: 30 minutes

Location: Inside

Workshop Goals addressed:

- Understand the power of school gardens in promoting academic achievement, healthy lifestyles, environmental stewardship, and community and social development.

Handouts:

- Garden Pathways map
- Educational Tie-Ins worksheet
- Curricular Connections Resources list

Gardens for Learning pages:

- Resource List, 93 – 96
- Linking Gardens to School Curriculum, 20 – 28

Materials:

- Various garden-based learning curricula for display and use in Educational Tie-ins activity. Some may need to be downloaded and printed in advance.
- Selected children's literature for demonstration
- 2-3 reference copies of *A Child's Garden of Standards* and *Gardens for Learning: Linking Standards to Your School Garden*

Introduction to Curricular Resources

(Discussion ~10 mins)

1. Ask participants to remember the “Six of One ...” activity from earlier in the day. Pose the question, “Are there any skills relevant to your core academic subjects that students might learn or develop through that activity?” Possible answers include: Vocabulary, Compare/Contrast, Classification, Observation, and Description. Use this example to point out that many garden activities support not only science, but also other academic subjects.
2. Refer to the Garden Pathways Map in your binders and the Linking Gardens to School Curriculum section of *Gardens for Learning* (20-28). These give ideas for linking garden activities to science, math, history-social science, language arts, visual and performing arts, and health and nutrition curriculum.
 - If your audience includes parents or other non-teachers who are not familiar with content standards, you may want to explain (or ask a teacher to explain) the California State Academic Content Standards. School activities generally must address one or more content standards.
 - Briefly discuss ways to integrate instructional school gardens into teachers’ existing curricula, such as by replacing previously classroom-based lessons with garden-based activities. Ask for examples from the group.
 - Share two resources that make it easier to link garden experiences to elementary grade CA standards:
 - ***A Child’s Garden of Standards*** - an online resource that links the CA standards to garden activities that appear in various activity guides.
 - ***Linking State Standards to Your School Gardens*** – a supplement to *Gardens for Learning* developed by CFAITC. Links activities described in this book to broad core CA standards.
3. Explain that there are a variety of garden-based teaching materials designed for use in the classroom or outside in the garden, and many have been developed to tie into or support CA standards. Some printed materials that are commonly used are listed below. More can be found in the handout Curricular Connections Resources in your training materials.
 - ***The Growing Classroom*** (comprehensive; easy to use; supports science...)
 - ***TWIGS*** (very easy to use; great for primary; good connections to nutrition.)
 - ***Junior Master Gardener*** (well-established programs with good solid activities; some designed for after school)
 - ***Math in the Garden*** (Grades K-8, Hands-on math activities to use in the garden)
4. While there are several outstanding books that can be purchased, many lessons are online and downloadable for free. The California School Garden Network has a searchable list on their website (www.csqn.org).

Educational Tie-Ins Activity

(Activity ~20 mins)

Explain that workshop participants will now have an opportunity to examine one book or resource in depth, and introduce one activity in their resource to the rest of the audience. This activity will also give them practice connecting garden activities to the CA state standards. Direct them to the “Educational Tie-Ins” worksheet which will guide their exploration.

- Ask participants to get into pairs based on the content area and grade levels they would like to focus on (i.e. elementary math, middle school science, etc.). Have them select a book or resource that addresses their subject and age level.
- Give each group 10 minutes to peruse their book or resource, and select and review an activity. They should use the Educational Tie-ins worksheet to describe how the activity could be used to address at least one learning objective or standard. If participants struggle with identifying a standard, direct them to **A Child’s Garden of Standards** or the “**Linking State Standards...**” supplement.
- After about 10 minutes, ask for reports-back to the whole group. In the interest of time, select one pair from each content area to report back. If there is more time, others can weigh in. They should give a brief summary of the activity, share their ideas on using it in their specific classroom or garden situation, and share general impressions of the teaching material they’ve looked through.
- Mention or display the searchable curriculum webpage on www.csgn.org for an exhaustive list of free online curriculum options.

Optional (if time permits): Children’s Literature

- In addition to garden-based lessons, there are many children’s books relevant to gardening. Point out examples for perusing and/or read one aloud to the group. Some suggested children’s books are:
 - ***The Reason for a Flower*** (life/plant science - Science)
 - ***Diary of a Worm*** (vermicomposting/recycling/ecology – Language Arts)
 - ***How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World*** (food systems – Social Science/Geography)
 - ***Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices*** (poetry – Language Arts, English Language Development)
- Ask participants to recommend any other favorite resources to the group. For additional titles, direct participants to the book lists found on the websites of the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (www.cfaitc.org), and the Junior Master Gardener’s Growing Good Kids book awards (www.jmgkids.us).