

Raising Brain Summer Enrichment

Example Garden Science Daily Rhythm:

9:00 AM - 9:25 AM: Morning Circle

Parents drop off their learners and sign them in, initiating a warm start to the day filled with anticipation. We gather in a circle to reinforce our sense of community and discuss the exciting activities ahead. Today's focus is on garden science. We might discuss a plan on what our garden should have, emphasizing our commitment to donating produce to the local food bank and crafting bouquets from our cut flowers for the farmers market.

9:25 AM - 10:00 AM: Mindfulness Journals

In this cozy session, learners embark on a journey of self-discovery through mindfulness journaling. Using mixed media, they respond to prompts designed to evoke introspection and gratitude. For instance, they might create a magical potion for instant relaxation, drawing upon ingredients like favorite books, lunchtime, and sunshine. They will then be asked to draw what this potion would look like in a boiling cauldron. This practice fosters emotional resilience and sets a positive tone for the day's learning.

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM: Snack Time

Nourishment for the body and soul, snack time offers learners the freedom to refuel and recharge in their preferred setting. In the warm sunshine in the garden area or the cozy corners of our campus, they can continue their explorations, savoring both the flavors of their snacks and the beauty of nature.

10:30 AM - 11:15 AM: History Makers Society

Immersing ourselves in the stories of trailblazers like George Washington Carver, we connect the past with the present, exploring the rich tapestry of garden science. Through mixed media expressions ranging from writing, collages and drawing to collaborative projects like short film documentaries, and comic design, learners will deepen their understanding of historical figures and their contributions to our world.

11:15 PM - 12:00 PM: Art Project

Creativity blooms as learners embark on an art project intricately woven into our garden science theme. From designing gardens with precision on grid paper to exploring unconventional mediums for portraits and landscapes, every stroke of imagination enriches our understanding of the natural world.

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM: Lunchtime

Amidst laughter and conversation, learners prepare, enjoy, and clean up after their meals, fostering a culture of responsibility and communal harmony. During this time they are free to work on self guided projects, set up a picnic under our shady plum, or eat lunch indoors enjoying a game of cards at the table.

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM: Movement

Our movement classes are essential for fostering physical fitness, cognitive development, and social interaction (don't worry, even the big kids love them!) A movement class may look like a relay race, where the learners on each team are assigned different garden creatures and must move and act like the creature while racing around the school yard passing on the stick to the next until they finish. As with all of our activities, participation is not required. If a learner can't or doesn't wish to participate in the games, we have plenty of opportunities for them to help with set up, time keeping, judging, preparation, etc. We are flexible, and nobody will be put on the spot.

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM: Tidy Up

With a sense of pride and ownership, learners take on the responsibility of tidying up our campus, ensuring that every corner (inside and out) reflects the care and respect we hold for our environment and each other. Through teamwork and collaboration, they learn the value of shared effort and the importance of leaving a positive impact. This allows them great practice opportunities for communication, collaboration, and conflict resolution without unnecessary adult intervention.

2:30-3:00 PM: Goodbyes and Pick-Up

After tidying is complete, students may play outside, or inside, read a book, work on projects, submit ideas for future days, or simply just be until grown ups arrive to collect their learners, they witness the fruits of a day well spent—filled with laughter, learning, and growth. With hearts full and minds enriched, learners bid farewell to another memorable day of garden science exploration, carrying with them not only newfound knowledge but also a deeper appreciation for the world around them and excitement for what's to come on the next day.

This weekly themed approach encompasses science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM), ensuring a holistic learning experience. Students eagerly anticipate applying their newfound knowledge, fostering deeper connections to their academic studies at home. Teachers facilitate organic groupings among mixed ages within an open, collaborative community, enhancing both social and academic growth.

For more info visit: www.raisingbrain.com