

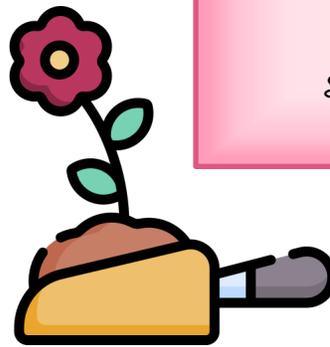
COMMUNITY GARDENS & KITCHENS

Opportunities for intergenerational literacy

A Community Garden/Kitchen, where old and young, parents and children, all have a part in preparing, maintaining, and, eventually, cooking and eating the fruits of their labours, provides many different kinds of opportunities to foster family literacy.

Beth Corey, the former director of the Fredericton Regional Family Resource Center, describes her organization's experience:

“In the summer of 1998, we created a community garden and did so with the involvement of a number of agencies. The Fredericton Regional Family Resource Center provided the site for the garden. A large part of the backyard on the riverfront was dug up and the City of Fredericton tilled the garden.



The Planting Song:

Heave ho! Away we go!

Plant another seed

Put a seed in the ground and stomp it down

But just don't leave it there, oh no.

Heave Ho! Away we go!

Give it water, give it light

See it grow so big and bright.

Agriculture New Brunswick tested the soil, put in fertilizer, donated seeds and seedlings, and led training sessions. The Boys and Girls Club had a section for beans and pumpkins and the Family Resource Center had a section of its own and each family in the program had one or two rows of their own. A home economist and nutritionist conducted a salsa and relish class at the Center's collective kitchen, and parents received canning bottles free from Walmart. In the fall, everyone made autumn decorations with the corn husks and integrated the lessons learned in the garden into family programs. *Jack and the Beanstalk* became a popular story. Like any garden, there was an appearance of weeds and disappearance of workers in August, which led to a reading of *Little Red Hen*, the story of a hardworking bird who teaches her lazy friends a lesson.”

From "Parenting for a Literate Community" Project,
University of New Brunswick Early Childhood Centre.



Planting Song: Courtesy of Link Science, Nomad Scientists. Pembroke Publishers. 1990

