

Ready, Set, Grow!:

Implementing Agriculture Enrichment in Urban Classrooms



Illinois 21st CCLC 2017 Spring Conference

Who are we?



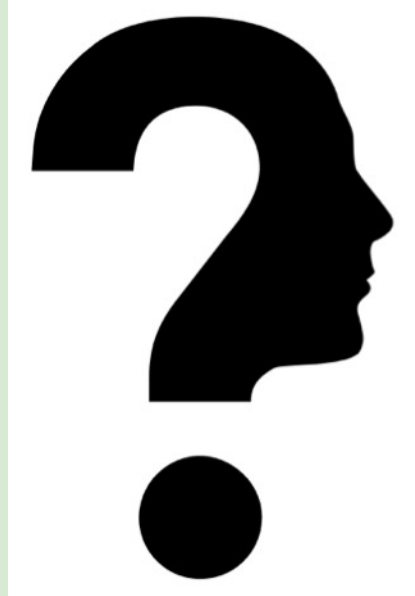
Kari Kraus, Youth Programs Manager

Yesenia Velásquez, Resource Coordinator

Who currently implements
agriculture in their after school
program?



Who are you?



Hope Institute Learning Academy (HILA)

- Near West Chicago
- K-5th Grade School
- Diverse Learners (23%)
 - African-American (89%) Latino (7%) White (2%) Mixed (1%)
- Partner since 2015
- K-2 & 3-5 classes



Quotes from friends...

“I get to **touch** plants and I **like** plants.”



- Kindergarten student

Presentation Agenda

Overview of our agriculture enrichment

Outside & Classroom

Have fun!

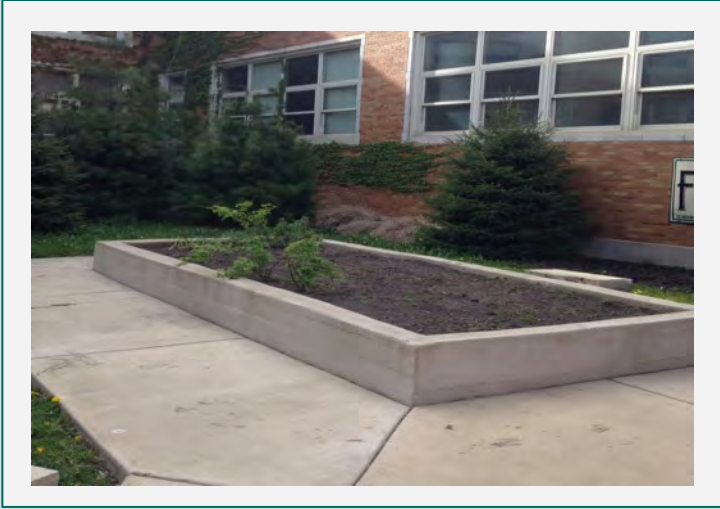
2 activities

1 demo



Outside Agriculture Enrichment







Cultivation



tomatoes & green peppers

Quotes from friends...

“I like gardening with Ms. H because we get to eat what we grow. **I get to eat the tomatoes we grow.**”

- 5th Grade student



Classroom Agriculture Enrichment



Activity:

Where does it belong?

Where does it belong? Lesson

Teach lesson about sorting recyclables and what can be recycled

- **Paper and Cardboard**
- **Aluminum**
- **Plastic**
- **Compost**

Objective: Learn about sustainability, accountability, and different ways they can take action



Where does it belong?



Where (ELSE) does it belong?

Adaptations

Smaller scale- independent worksheets

Relay Race- collect objects and have students race from one end of room to the other and sort accordingly

Rumble in the recycling bin- student selects a recycled object and listens for their category to be called before running across the gym



Soil Sensory



Quotes from friends...

“I like going to the garden and gym. I only garden in Ms. Heintz’s class and **I don’t get to garden outside of school.** My favorite part of gardening is planting and **seeing the plants grow.**”

-3rd Grade Student



Pumpkin Exploration



Leaf Art



Nature as Installation Art

Robert Smithson: Earthworks

Spiral Jetty

Rozel Point, Great Salt Lake, Utah

April 1970

mud, precipitated salt crystals, rocks, water coil 1500' long and 15' wide

Collection: Dia Art Foundation,

New York

https://www.robertsmithson.com/earthworks/spiral_jetty.htm



Nature as Installation Art

6 Earth Designs, as suggest by Hands On-as we grow-

1. Animals (worm, snake)
2. People
3. Pizza & Pie
4. Letters or Words
5. Stories
6. Mandalas



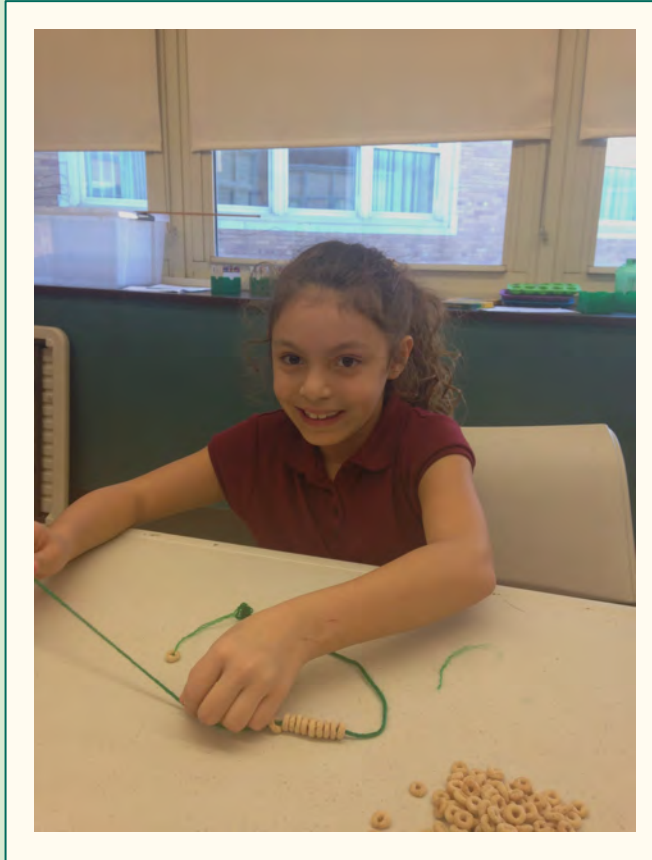
Nature as Installation Art





Identifying Plant Life Cycle

All About Birds



Aquaponics

**Cabbage,
peppers, basil,
mint, arugula &
much more.**



Demonstration:

Aquaponics







Quotes from friends...

“I like coming to Gads Hill because it is awesome. I get to make new friends and planting. **When I grow up, I want to be a farmer and make food for people.**”

- 4th Grade student

Activity:

— What's my carbon footprint?

What is my carbon footprint? Lesson

Teach lesson about carbon 101 at age specific level

- **Where does carbon come from?**

- **Is carbon good/bad or both?**

- **What makes my carbon footprint big?**

Objective: Learn carbon and its impact, decrease your carbon footprint, and use math skills to decode





Why agriculture?

Social Emotional Development (SEL)

SEL - Several interrelated areas of development

- **Social interaction**
- **Emotional awareness**
- **Self-regulation**



STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, ART, Math)

S- aquaponics, pumpkin volcano, cultivation

T- documentation (video or photos), cold box

E- cucumber trellis, potato planter stacking system

A- Leaf art, nature as art installation, natural “paintbrush”

M- Carbon Footprint worksheet, soil sensory



Questions?

Thank you!

Yesenia Velásquez, Resource Coordinator
yvelasquez@gadshillcenter.org

Kari Kraus, Youth Programs Manager
kkraus@gadshillcenter.org



Handout: Agriculture in the Urban Classroom Resources (printed on 100% Sugar Cane (Bagasse) Fiber) 100% Tree Free