

GET KIDS GROWING!

Gardening teaches children life skills such as responsibility, communication, independence and self-confidence. Gardening teaches them to become Smarty Plants!

Through gardening, children become environmentally aware and responsible. They begin to observe the weather and how this affects plants. They start to monitor rainfall and water use and learn that the garden is a fascinating ecosystem of bees, worms, insects and animals all contributing to the health of the soil and the environment.

When children take on the responsibility of a garden they experience how their actions affect its success or failure. When they tend the garden with care they feel the thrill of the harvest but they also experience loss if they are neglectful. They learn to ask for help when it's needed and, in this world of immediate gratification, they develop the skill of patience.

Getting children into the garden is not just about health or team work or even growing food to share with others. The garden is an outside classroom where life skills are learned and experiences are shared. The garden is where kids can become 'smarty plants'.

Smarty Plants is a kids' range of seedlings that helps parents and teachers to get their kids growing. Presented in four-cell punnet packs, the Smarty Plants range is easy for kids to handle and because the seedlings are more mature, the kids will be harvesting their own vegetables sooner.

The Smarty Plants labels show healthy kids who are excited about the vegetables that they have grown. The backs of the labels have planting, growing and harvesting information written especially for kids.

The Smarty Plants range, exclusive to Bunnings, is supported by a comprehensive website with gardening and cooking information especially for kids but it also includes tools to help parents and teachers feel confident enough to encourage their children to garden.

- **For the Kids:** Vegetable fact sheets, 'How to' pages, garden glossary, recipes and cooking skills are all written in the writing/reading frameworks taught in the National Curriculum. This makes them easier for children to read as well as useful documents for the classroom. Through the website, the kids can join the Smarty Plants Kids Club and receive monthly e-newsletters with garden tips, activities and competitions.
- **For the Parents:** Ideas and information on how to get children into the garden in a way that is safe, hygienic and lots of fun. Parents can also learn from the website as well so that they feel confident enough to teach their kids to garden and to grow a bumper crop of vegetables.
- **For the Teachers:** Themed Cross Curriculum Plans and lesson plans which give teachers ideas on integrating gardening into the classroom on a daily basis. 'The Classroom' includes advice on setting up and maintaining a school kitchen garden. This section has been written by experienced teachers and is based on the newly implemented National Curriculum.

The Smarty Plants range is available nationally at Bunnings Warehouses.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Kathryn Bafile

PO Box 341, Bassendean WA 6054

Phone: 0438 947 718

Email: kath@smartyplants.com.au

www.smartyplants.com.au

