

POD-Wake Newsletter #2
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PHOTO OF THE MONTH: January garden planning results in a seed donation! Preparations are underway to create beautiful gardens at the POD-Wake centers.

Photo credit: Natural Learning Initiative

News from the Field

POD-Wake Interactive Sessions Rescheduled

Interactive Design Sessions for Wake County childcare centers will continue this spring. We have adjusted the format for these sessions. Eligible centers will participate in two webinars,

Best Practices in the OLE and *Design Principles and Site Layout for the OLE*, and a hands on, half-day, *Programming Workshop* using their own childcare centers to layout their OLE ideas. Programming workshops are scheduled for April 2 and May 20, 11:30 - 3:00, with webinars available 2 weeks before.



POD-Wake Childcare Outdoor Learning Environment Leadership Series.

[More details and registration available here](#) for this five part training series for early childhood outdoor environment leaders. The first session, Raising Funds and Resources for Your Outdoor Learning Environment, will be held February 26, 6:30-8:00pm. See the calendar below for dates of all the sessions.

Schematic Layouts Ready for Delivery

Cohort 2 centers' plans are completed and will be delivered this week. We will work with the Directors and Smart Start to plan and schedule their Community Presentations, which will take place this Spring.

Seed Donation in Time for Spring

Sow True Seed, an heirloom seed company in Asheville, NC, donated dozens of seed packages to the Natural Learning Initiative to be planted at the POD-Wake Demonstration Sites. You can request a free catalog [on their website](#) to find out more about the vegetables your children will be growing this coming year.

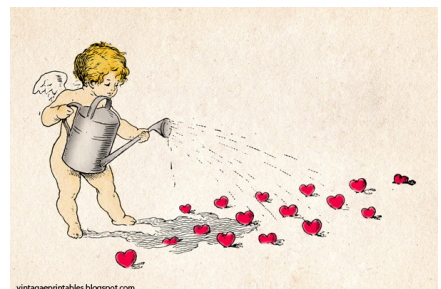
Resources

Valentine Idea

Flower seeds make beautiful valentines. [Take a look at this craft idea from blogging mom, Meghan Cooper.](#)

Starting Seeds

It's almost time to start seeds for spring and summer gardens. Here are some sources for more information on when and how to start seeds yourself.





The Green Desk is a resource for early childhood professionals creating healthy outdoor environments for young children.

See the [Starting Seeds in Spring](#) page.

[Step by step instructions from Better Homes and Gardens](#)

Training opportunities in the community

[Webinar - Bees in the Garden.](#) Offered by Extension Learn. **February 7, 2:00pm**

[Durham County Extension Gardener Seminar: Tips and Preparation for a Spring Garden, February 9, 3pm-4pm](#), Integrated Pest Management techniques. North Regional Library, Durham. [919-560-0231](#)

[Get Ready for Spring: A Vegetable Gardening Workshop.](#) Offered by the NC Botanical Garden at the Carolina Campus Community Garden in Chapel Hill. \$15 Fee. Pre-register. **February 23, 1:30pm-3pm** [919-962-0522](#)

Grant Opportunity:

[The Grassroots Grant program from ScottsMiracleGro](#) has \$1500 grants available for gardening programs focused on community engagement and children's health. Non profit status is required. Applications from a fiscal sponsor will be considered. Application deadline: **February 17, 2014.**

Recipe

Frozen Yogurt-Covered Strawberry Pops. A Valentine's Day treat!

Ingredients:

One pint container fresh strawberries, washed and dried with stems removed.
One 16-oz. container vanilla flavored Greek yogurt
Cake pop or lollipop sticks (can be found at craft stores)

1. Place a lollipop stick through each strawberry.
2. Dip each strawberry in yogurt.
3. Place strawberries on wax paper lined baking sheet and freeze for at least 2 hours.
4. Enjoy!

Project Calendar

FEBRUARY

Action Planning for Year Two Demonstration Centers

Activity: Indoor fairy gardens & herb containers

FEBRUARY 26 - POD-Wake Childcare OLE Leadership Series: Raising Funds and Resources for your OLE.

MARCH

Installation: Planting fruit trees and shrubs

Activity: Garden planning with children; art activities with seed catalogs

MARCH 6 - [7th Annual Growing In Place Symposium](#): Neighborhoods for Life. Marbles Kids Museum

MARCH 8 - [Dig IN!](#) Weaving Edible Landscapes into the Fabric of Our Community. At Marbles Kids Museum

APRIL

Installation: Phase one vegetable gardens

Activity: Newspaper pots and straw bale planting

APRIL 30 - POD-Wake Childcare OLE Leadership Series: Now We Grow It, How Do We Cook It

MAY

Activity: Transplanting and summer garden planting.

JUNE

JUNE 25- POD-Wake Childcare OLE Leadership Series: Enhancing Cognitive Development in the OLE

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 30- POD-Wake Childcare OLE Leadership Series: Composting and Vermicomposting: Recycling Food Scraps Creates Healthy Soil for Gardens

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 25- POD-Wake Childcare OLE Leadership Series: Remaining Engaged with Nature During the Winter Months



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