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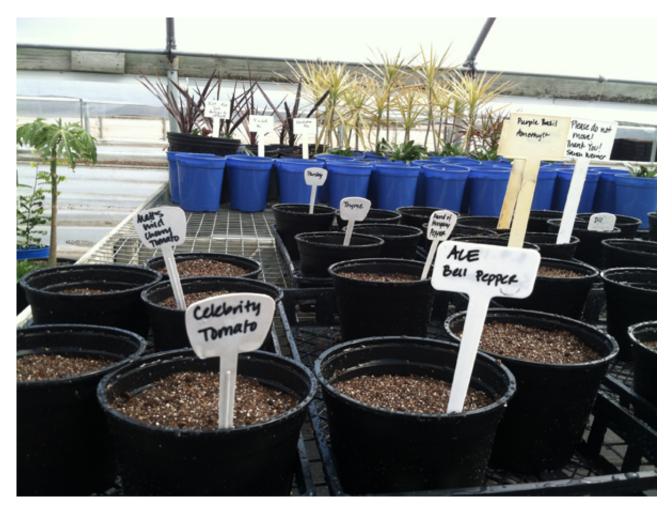


PHOTO OF THE MONTH: Future POD-Wake tomatoes, peppers, and herbs, ready to sprout at the Campbell Road Nursery.

Photo credit: Natural Learning Initiative

News from the Field



Johnson Pond Learning Center, a Cohort One POD-Wake demonstration site, installed two pathways in March. These curving, circular, concrete pathways meet many of the best practices for pathways

in the Outdoor Learning
Environment. The installation
process included a day

for NLI staff to layout the pathway and a full day of digging, installing forms, and pouring the concrete. Now it is ready for the children to ride trikes and wheeled toys!





Mary Archer, POD-Wake Garden Trainer, led seed planting activities with children at Cohort 2 centers, **Childcare Network #61** (below) and **ABC Land** (right). Although it was icy and cold outside, spring time was on everyone's mind as they filled their cups for planting, pushed pea seeds into the potting soil, and added water.

Resources

<u>Selection, Installing, and Managing Plants</u>, a <u>Green Desk</u> resource, has guides and plant lists for the early child hood OLE. Check here for answers to your questions and inspiration for your center.

<u>Grow and Share plant and seedling donation program</u> has posted dates and times for plant distribution. Find more detail on their website and be sure to complete the 2014 Assistance Request form, also available on their website.

<u>KidsGardening.org.</u> a resource of the National Gardening Association, is worth a look. Sign up for their newsletter to receive notices of grant opportunities and seasonal activity recommendations.

Take a look at <u>Advocates for Health in Action Local Foods resource page</u> for options to supplement the POD-Wake garden this summer.

Catering with a Cause - Graduates of the Interfaith Food Shuttle's Culinary Job Training

Program are an option if you need a caterer for your community presentation.

## Recipe

## Yogurt dip for spring veggies

### Ingredients:

1 cup low-fat plain yogurt

1 tbsp lemon juice

2 Tbsp finely chopped fresh basil

2 Tbsp finely chopped fresh parsley

Dash of salt

Dash of ground pepper

Dash of garlic powder (optional)

Serve with baby carrots, sugar snap peas, broccoli, or radishes, and enjoy a taste of spring!

# Project Calendar

#### **APRIL**

Installation: Phase One vegetable gardens

Activity: Newspaper pots, straw bale planting, container gardens, and early summer

vegetable planting

**APRIL 2 - POD-Wake Interactive Design Session with Webinars, College of Design, NC State University** 

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

It?, Jill Brown, Director of Nutrition Education, Interfaith Food Shuttle

### **MAY**

Installation: Bean teepees or beans on fences; potatoes in grow bags

Activity: Planting summer vegetables from transplants; planting pumpkins

May 20 - POD-Wake Interactive Design Session with Webinars

#### **JUNE**

Installation: Wildlife and perennial gardens

Activity: Bugs, birds, and worms

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

OLE

#### JULY

Installation: Center specific projects for creating new settings

Activity: How to know when to harvest

### **AUGUST**

Installation: Center specific projects for creating new settings

Activity: Charting, measuring, and tasting the harvest

### **SEPTEMBER**

**SEPTEMBER 30** - POD-Wake Childcare OLE Leadership Series: Composting and Vermicomposting: Recycling Food Scraps Creates Healthy Soil for Gardens, Ronda Sherman, Extension Specialist, NC State University

#### **OCTOBER**

OCTOBER 2 - 3 - Save the Date! 12th Annual Design Institute: Nature Play and Learning

#### **NOVEMBER**

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







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