

POD-Wake Newsletter #  
Subscribe to this list



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

[Selection, Installing, and Managing Plants](#), a [Green Desk](#) resource, has guides and plant lists for the early child hood OLE. Check here for answers to your questions and inspiration for your center.

[Grow and Share plant and seedling donation program](#) 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.

[KidsGardening.org](#), 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 [Advocates for Health in Action Local Foods resource page](#) 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





*Copyright © 2014 Natural Learning Initiative, All rights reserved.*

*MailChimp.*

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)