

POD Wake Co Newsletter- February 2019

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Planning Ahead: Raising Funds and Finding Resources



Why Community Engagement?

Outdoor learning environment (OLE) renovation in your childcare center involves adding new elements such as tree, scrubs, gardens, curvy pathways, dramatic play, and science exploration. Most childcare centers

need support to renovate their current outdoor spaces and transform them into outdoor learning environments. Community engagement goes hand-in-hand with fundraising to generate resources and contribute to your project success, such as:

- Helping to launch your OLE project by bringing people together.
- Educating the public about your OLE project by familiarizing stakeholders with the benefits of connecting children to nature.
- Facilitating sustainability of your OLE project by supporting ongoing management and development of the landscape.

What is Community Fundraising?

Community fundraising is about people. Success goes hand-in-hand with community engagement, which is about becoming visible in the community, about making a "noise", and enticing interest from local groups and individuals to support OLE improvement. In other words, the more friends and relationships your childcare center has, the more likely it is to succeed in fundraising.

Using a variety of approaches will reap the greatest rewards.

For more on how to secure funding and resources check [here](#) or other ways to learn how to engage you community click [here](#).

Spring 2019



Register Now!

Spring 2019 registration for the Early Childhood Outdoor Learning Environments certificate course will be opening soon! Check our [website](#) for more information and to register.

- Registration for course starts on January 7, 2018 and will be open until February 22, 2019.
- Certificate course will be offered from February 4, 2019 - April 29, 2019.

Have questions regarding our courses? Check out NLI's [Early Childhood Outdoor Learning Environments Certificate](#) page for more information.

Plant of the Month (Cool-Season Vegetable)

Carrot, *Daucus carota subsp. sativus*

Carrots, are root vegetables, used in American cuisine. Most commonly known for it's orange hue, carrots also come in a variety of colors such as: purple, black, white and yellow and red. Plant direct seeds in loose soil in the Spring from early February to late March or for fall from August to mid- September. Harvest when their "shoulders" are visible.



Planting and harvesting carrots, [Growing Cool-Season Childcare Production Garden](#)

To learn more about carrots or other plants, contact your local cooperative extension agent or...

[Click Here](#)

Recipe (Cool-Season Vegetable)

Braised Collard Greens

Prep time: 10 mins **Cook time:** 30 mins **Total Time:** 40 mins **Serves:** 6-8

INGREDIENTS:

1 large bunch or 2 small bunches collard greens

2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

1 large onion, diced

2 cloves garlic, minced

Salt and pepper

1/3 cup apple cider vinegar

1 tablespoon dark brown sugar

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Wash collard greens.
2. Remove stems from collards. To do so, pull the stems free from the leaves.
3. Cut leaves in half lengthwise, and cut crosswise into 1/2 inch slices.
4. In a large saute pan over medium heat, add olive oil and diced onions. Cook until tender.
5. Reduce heat and add garlic, and cook for 1 minute more.
6. Increase heat and add greens and stir until greens become wilted.
7. Add apple cider vinegar, sugar, and salt and pepper to taste.
8. Cook until vinegar reduces and greens are tender, approximately 15-20 minutes
9. Serve warm.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO DONATE TO NLI?

We support outdoor learning environments for vulnerable population.