
POD Wake Co Newsletter- September 2018

Natural Learning Initiative <naturalearning@ncsu.edu>

Reply-To: naturalearning@ncsu.edu

To: ljlloyd@ncsu.edu

Fri, Sep 7, 2018 at 8:30 AM

Natural Learning Initiative: POD Wake Co Newsletter- September 2018



Naturalizing Chain Link Fences



Bring change to your outdoor learning environment (OLE) by naturalizing the chain link fence at your childcare center. A cost effective option, chain link is not the most attractive type of fence for the OLE. Fortunately, it is easy and inexpensive to naturalize a chain link fence with vines and other decorative objects. Plants such as perennial vines (preferably evergreens), annual food producing vines, ribbons, pictures and artwork will create a fun and engaging element to the fence that all can enjoy. Fences made from

wood, plastic or other materials, can also install permanent or temporary decorative fixtures all fence to promote stimulation and diversity in the OLE.



Installing vines along fences:

- **Vine Selection.** Select vines that are hardy, twinning, non-toxic and evergreen (if possible).
- **Space the vines along the fence based on their mature spread.** For example, if the vines will spread 10 feet, plant them 10 feet apart.
- **Plant vines against the fence to protect the plant from trampling.** Sometimes it is best to plant the vines just on the other side of the fence outside the outdoor learning environment, so the roots will not get compacted by little feet.
- **Train the vines to grow on the fence.** After the vine is planted and as needed through the growing season, tie vines back to the fence to insure proper growth and even coverage of the fence – and in the case of fruiting vines, ease of harvesting.

Find additional information on [Naturalizing Chain Link Fences](#)

Natural Learning Initiative's [Green Desk](#) has great resources on outdoor learning environments for children. Find information at naturalearning.org

September Activity



Apple Twister

Get ready to monkey around! This is a twister game made with cut out paper to look like apples. Stick the cutouts in a grid pattern on the floor, you can use sticky putty to make them stick to the floor more, and make your own spinner or simply call out colors and direction such as right or left. First one to fall down is out and the last person standing is the winner.

Plant of the Month

Radishes, *Raphanus raphanistrum* subsp. *sativus*

Harvest this cool season vegetable that grows in the spring and fall. It is also a great container plant! In

the fall season harvest in late September until the first frost for best results. Varieties that are successfully grown and produced in North Carolina are Easter Egg, Cherry Belle and Sparkler. This plant is appropriate to cultivate with children because of the bulbs quickly mature (4-6 weeks after planting) and the way they are harvested. Like carrots and potatoes, children love to harvest in-ground vegetables and fruits to see what has been yield.



To learn more about radishes...

[Click Here](#)

Learn more about radishes or other plants from your local cooperative extension agent.

Recipe

Crockpot Applesauce

Prep time: 5 mins **Cook time:** 4-6 hrs **Total time:** 4 hrs & 5mins **Serving:** 4-6

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 large apples
- 1 lemon (fresh squeezed lemon juice)
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1/4 cup of water



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Peel and core apples; cut into quarters
2. Add apples, lemon juice, cinnamon, brown sugar and water to crockpot.
3. Cover and cook on low 4 to 6 hours, until apples are very tender.
4. Mash with the back of a fork or potato masher.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO DONATE TO NLI?

We support outdoor learning environments for vulnerable population.

[Click Here](#)

Questions? Contact us today at 1-919-515-8345 or
naturalearning@ncsu.edu

[Unsubscribe](#)

This message was sent to ljilloyd@ncsu.edu from naturalearning@ncsu.edu

Natural Learning Initiative
College of Design, Campus Box 7701 NC State University
Raleigh, NC 27695

