

Rules when visiting the *Garden of the Senses*

Garden time is class time. Many of the rules are the same as classroom rules: no running, take care of supplies (plants), and use inside voices since our garden area is near residential homes.

Ears are one of the most important tools in the garden. Remind students to listen for instructions and ask questions if they don't understand.

Walk only on wood chip paths, grass, or walkways, and never in a garden bed. Students and adults often assume that it is okay to walk in a garden where there are no plants. We never walk in a garden, even when it does not contain plants, because it compacts the soil. If an area is not covered with wood chip mulch, grass, or a designated walkway, it should be considered a garden.

Don't stand or sit on the raised bed framing. Students are often tempted to stand or sit on the boards that form the raised beds of the class gardens, but this can damage the framing.

Handle tools safely! Instruct students that trowels and shovels are carried with the sharp parts and blades pointed down. Tools are never to be swung or carried on a student's shoulder. When not in use, shovels and trowels are inserted into the soil with the handles standing vertically, so no accidents are caused by stepping on or tripping over the tools. Magnifying glasses are fun to use in the gardens to take a closer look at organisms. Students are not to use the lenses to try to burn plant material or organisms.

Touch flowers and plant materials only if the garden educator says it's OK. Our garden is hands-on and interactive, but that doesn't mean we can pick any plant we want. Let us guide you with which plants we can touch.

Harvest food if the garden educator says it's OK. We do not use chemicals, so we encourage student samplings of produce right out of the gardens. Only sample foods that the guide says is OK; not all plants are edible!

Treat garden animals with respect. Pick up garden animals (insects) only if the garden educator says it's safe, and always return them to their garden home. Some examples of animals to avoid are caterpillars that have small hairs that can be irritating to our skin and centipedes and bees which may inject venom if they are annoyed with you.