

Gutter gardens



Lesson Report

Recycling used materials was the key to this outside-the-box lesson in which urban farming consultant Jon Walsh taught Fiona's Grade 2 students how to build a **gutter garden**.

This smart idea transforms recycled guttering into vegetable planters that – when suspended or attached to a wall or fence – can ensure plants receive more sunshine, keep land-dwelling insects at bay, keep verandahs tidier, and create eye-catching privacy.



The class split into 4 groups and within 20 minutes had sowed seeds in their gutter gardens and attached them to the fence.

Growing food in recycled gutters is a great concept, that allows people to grow their own food on site, takes advantage of unused spaces, helps cut food bills, saves space (grow upward, not outward), and if food is grown without chemicals, produces safer, healthier vegetables.



Students preparing a gutter garden to hang on the fence.



Finished! Two gutter gardens containing seeds clipped to the rooftop fence.

What did students learn?

- How to build a gutter garden
- How urban farming is an important step to producing safer food in a way that that is friendlier to the environment
- A key role that recycling can play in food production.



- Urban food production & training
- Garden installation & maintenance
- Gardening demonstrations.

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