



Guide Sheet

Welcome to the Discovery Garden at Longue Vue House and Gardens. Here are some tips to help you around the garden. Please feel free to consult the Garden Guide if you have any questions. This is a hands-on exploratory experience for both students and chaperones. We encourage you to get down and dirty with the kids as you discover the wonder of the Discovery Garden!

Which Way Do We Go?

Follow the map to each station. Your guide will point you in the right direction to start. Once you're done with a station, either move to the next numerical station or move to the next open station. Feel free to stop along the way for more discovery... like helping a child find a letter from his/her name in a plant name... or track down a bug that has crawled across the trail.

1. Design Garden

Students match shape and color paddles to similar items in this garden. In addition, children may build with logs and flower pots. They can make shapes or letters or build a house for a frog. Please return pieces to their place when finished.

2. Compost Bins

Encourage the children to look through the magnifiers for bugs and decomposing plants in the compost sample.

3. Worm Dig

Help kids dig for worms - without flinging dirt on other kids. Please make sure worms are returned to worm dig when finished.

4. Vegetable Garden

Help the children use their counting skills: count plants in a row or vegetables on a vine. Ask which plant has the most leaves or fruits or flowers; which has the least, or more than, less than; which is bigger or smaller. Please discourage students from picking vegetables or leaves from the plants.

5. Recycled Garden

We have reused our plastic jugs to make bubble blowers, and bathroom fixtures to make planters. Encourage children to think of ways they can recycle paper, cans, plastic and glass at home.

6. Herb Bed

Help students select herbs to grind with the mortar and pestle. Ask: "what does it smell like?" before and after grinding. Have students share the before and after smells with each other and you.

7. Citrus Garden

Help students look for signs of insects. Encourage students to look underneath leaves, but not to disturb anything living there. Look through the binoculars to find creature that live in the trees around the Garden.

8. Lath House

Students will wet a paper towel, put it and a bean into a baggie. In-class activity instructions are on the baggie label.

9. Secret Garden

Help students find plants named according to how they look. Names of plants are hidden under sign flaps beside selected plants. Encourage children to make up their own names for these and other plants.

10. Sun Dial

Help students measure their height at the instruction sign and then stand at their height on the sundial. Draw an imaginary line from the tip of their head's shadow toward the ring of numbers. Where that line falls is the time. Remember to use the correct ring of numbers. Inside ring is for daylight savings time (DST) and outside ring is for central standard time (CST).

11. Bamboo Tunnel

Children can fly, hop, inch or buzz through the tunnel like a bird, frog, worm or bee. Ask students to move through the tunnel like other animals they've seen in the Discovery Garden.