

There is so much more, but these are just a few elements that anyone can incorporate using the plants from their own climate. It's best to collaborate with experts in the field, to know not only what is best to plant, but where to plant it, how to maintain it, and what is safe for children and animals.

The first step to creating a CPG, is researching native plants, animals and insect life, and finding out what is appropriate to a particular environment. Gardeners and farmers are often available for consultation about plants, trees, and flowers to attract beneficial pollinators. Local beekeepers might be delighted to install a honeybee hive and share their knowledge with others. Place-based education promotes the use of community members as an active resource, and inter-generational work can support learning for all ages. The experiential possibilities for all ages and backgrounds inside of a therapeutic horticultural environment are endless.

"Something Good in the World has designated a garden for young people to feel fully alive, and able to explore themselves and their place on this earth. This past September, SGITW was able to present their peace garden at the United Nations International Day of Peace Celebrations. With students as the keepers and protectors of the garden, it will live on for many more students to find and contribute to."

— The Jane Goodall Institute, 2016



*Small Steps Towards
a Big Difference*

For a consultation about designing and creating your own complete Children's Peaceful Garden, or for arts-integrated curriculum plans and project-based learning ideas, please contact:

Something Good in the World

624 Croton Ave.

Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567

www.somethinggoodintheworld.org

somethinggooditw@aol.com

www.facebook.com/somethinggoodintheworld

<http://somethinggoodintheworld.wordpress.com/>

914-217-9249

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the children's peaceful garden



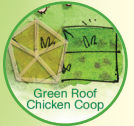
The "Children's Peaceful Garden," created by Something Good in the World is designed to be a sanctuary for children and wildlife. Integral to the design is the promotion of peaceful and imaginative, non-competitive play through the use of "intimate spaces" wherein a child can feel safe and intact within, which is where peace can begin.

A "Children's Peaceful Garden" can be created in any landscape, because only native, drought- and pest-resistant plants are used, according to the principles of "xeriscaping." Water catchment and conservation are essential components of the garden; therefore plants and flowers can thrive in woodland, farm, meadow, wetland, or desert environments.

Depending on available resources, a "Children's Peaceful Garden" can exist in a schoolyard, backyard, or any kind of community open space, public or private. Built by community or school volunteers, with donated funding and materials, current "Children's Peaceful Gardens" have been created for as little as \$500 or as much as \$2,500. Volunteering families from within the school or local community maintain the Garden, making children feel a responsible and active part of their own play space.

The focus of the “Children’s Peaceful Garden” is on sustainability and permaculture, where nature is the classroom. The design aspects are integrated with the landscape, so rather than straight lines, natural shapes are employed. The gardens within the Garden are small, so that children can easily maintain them, with lots of cozy sitting areas for journaling, discussions, problem solving, art projects, and peaceful play. Specific curriculum plans and hands-on learning projects go with the garden design.

The CPG can contain a wide variety of elements, adding one or more new components each year, including:



a greenroof chicken coop to demonstrate water conservation and insulation using native perennials



rain barrels and drip irrigation systems to demonstrate best practices in water conservation



free-ranging chickens that eat pests and demonstrate the natural life cycle of the chicken, as well as for animal care and egg collection



a pop-up greenhouse for growing annual veggies from seed when they need protection from the elements



an outdoor classroom that makes use of logs from a fallen tree to demonstrate repurposing



a composting system to demonstrate the best uses of food waste (as well as chicken manure and weeds), to create healthy soil using all organic materials



a wetland garden that demonstrates how to push back invasive species by planting native species



an apiary (honeybee hive) to demonstrate the symbiotic relationship between bees and the environment and humans



a pollinator garden, with perennial flowers that attract butterflies, hummingbirds, and bees



a bee-friendly perennial flower garden in the "bee line" of a honeybee beehive, to feed the bees what they need



a seesaw that pumps water for the gardens - kid powered to demonstrate renewable sources of energy!



an edible garden of native perennial edible flowers, berries and herbs for foraging and snacking inside of