

Hi everyone,

I presented at the 2015 Early Childhood Conference in Platteville on March 14th. The conference theme this year was Nurtured by Nature and my presentation was Table Top Gardening and More! I had a full class of 30 early childhood providers from family and group daycare, head start, preschools and other early childhood programs. Participants were from WI., Iowa and Illinois. Each participant planted a tulip bowl garden with lemon basil, parsley and chives I used grant money to purchase. They also put in a baby tear from Cushman's to be transferred to a terrarium at their programs. Thanks to advice from Terry and other gardener's from the club, I was able to have Hens and Chicks for everyone to take to their program also. (I had about 50 baby chicks) I quickly showed them how to start succulents from leaves and passed around one of mine for them to pull the leaves off of and have the kids start them in their programs. They received hand outs on how to plant each kind of terrarium or dish garden and the difference in light, water, and soil conditions. They left the workshop with "seeds" to have herb, succulent dish gardens and closed terrariums.

I also used the \$400 grant from Wisconsin Master Gardeners to purchase garden books for them to take back to their programs. Some received other pots or garden supplies. I purchased pansies also from Cushman's and those were given as door prizes in containers to pot them. I showed the providers from Wisconsin how easy it was to incorporate the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards into their curriculum in all domains of learning. Everyone was encourage to think "outside the box" when developing their garden curriculum.

Assessments from the workshop were helpful and positive. Comments included did not realize how easy it was to incorporate into the curriculum, don't have to have a large space, don't have to be scared to garden with kids, how easy it is to get kids involved.

I want to thank Karen and all for the advice and support. Thank You Cindy



Just a few of the resources I had at the conference. I had tulip salad bowls for participants if they wanted. I used the clear for visibility. This is a picture from the Wisconsin Early Childhood Association Conference in Madison that I presented at. (I remembered to take pictures). This was one of the conferences I wrote the grant for. This workshop was “Gardening All Year Round”. I painted pots for each provider with chalkboard paint and providers and children can use them for language as well as math and science in their curriculum. Books and resources were also given out.