



## OUTDOOR CLASSROOM CASE STUDY # 6

Brick Community Primary Learning Center  
224-260 Chambers Bridge Road, Brick 08723 (732)262-2590  
Lead: Susan MacDougall

The Rainbow Garden at this public kindergarten school is a collaborative effort involving 800 kindergarten, preschool and autistic students, a parent group, members of the Garden Club of Brick Township, a local garden center, and the Home and School Council. This garden features six wedge-shaped garden beds in an arc and planted with both perennial and annual plants corresponding to the colors of the rainbow. During their science classes, students had the opportunities to design the garden and select plants to reflect rainbow colors. They used hand lenses and microscopes to investigate seeds and plant parts in detail. Children were also taught to observe bees and lady bugs, as well as raised and released monarch and painted lady butterflies. They planted seeds and annual plants, watered plants, used appropriate tools, raked mulch, placed border stones and took photographs. Several children's books were also incorporated to integrate language arts with science. If all this weren't enough—there is also an alphabet garden with plants labeled from A-Z! All this with very young children with a lot of energy and enthusiasm doing the majority of the work.

### The \$ Thing:

- OCSCD Outdoor Classroom Grant—\$500 (2003)
- Toyota Tapestry Grant
- Home and School Council \$500 donation
- Garden Club of Brick—in-kind services
- Dwulet's Garden and Country Market—discount on plants

**A** for ajuga, **B** for bee balm, **C** for columbine, **G** for grasses, **K** for kniphofia, **M** for mallow and moonflowers, **P** for peonies...



Thank you for the zinnia seeds.

### Language Arts &

#### Science Links

*Flower Garden*  
by Eve Bunting

*Bumblebee, Bumblebee, Do You Know Me?*  
by Anne Rockwell

*What Shall I Grow?*  
by Ray Gibson

*The Reason for a Flower*  
by Ruth Heller

*The Tiny Seed*  
by Eric Carle

### Acting and Singing

"Little Daffodil" and  
"I'm a Little Tulip"

### National Science Standards:

5.1, 5.2, 5.5 & 5.6

## THE RAINBOW GARDEN



We love our garden!

### Newsletter Spotlight

- Garden galore—including A-Z featured plants, rainbow colors, butterfly nectar and host plants, annuals, perennials, shrubs—this school's got them all!
- Butterflies raised both in class and in garden then released
- Community partners were extensive and included a special group of parents that adopted sections (colors) of the garden. They were called the "Parent Patch Club."
- A Cub Scout Troop adoptive the garden for summer maintenance & weeding.

