

UC Marin Master Gardeners

Dig it, Grow it, Eat it

Station Five: Get in the Dirt Program Description

Location: Compost Area above the Herb Garden (We may need to move this so noise of Station One and Station Six do not interfere with learning....)

Divide the children into 6 groups of five again. Spread six sheets of newspapers. Each group needs trowel (we had them for Farm Day) and plastic bucket or recycled salad box. Tell the students they will be digging. But first we want to talk about what is in soil.

On a board, write what children think is in the soil. Discuss the components of soil.

Discuss what plants need from the soil.

Get soil samples – instructing children to dig only 4 inches and telling them they will be refilling their holes at the end of the exercise.

Bring 6 soil samples back to their newspapers. Have them sort through their samples, dividing what they find in their samples.

Put dirt back into bucket/box. Discuss compost to enrich the soil if there is time and or do a soil test to determine type of soil (sandy, loamy etc...)