

Welcome to the Garden!

Unlike the cozy atmosphere of the Family Room, the community gardens at Ethan Allen Homestead offer open spaces and wild places for children to enjoy and explore. While the staff at the Family Room strives to foster a safe garden experience for children, parents are immediately responsible for their children's safety.

Let's work together on garden safety:

During Family Room workshops for parents, the staff often provides childcare. However, there are times when we are understaffed and cannot monitor all the children. If you plan on attending a workshop at the garden, please check with the manager of the day to ensure childcare is available.

Please help children stay on the grass, away from the cars and bus. The Family Room staff will mark "off limits" areas with fencing.

During Family Room programs, all children must cross the road with an adult. This also applies to older children, who may be accustomed to crossing the road independently. Please explain to them that they are setting an example for the younger children!

For snacks and at lunch, please encourage children to sit when they eat. (Remember, children learn from example!) There are towels, water and wipes available for clean up.

Please alert others if your child has food allergies or a restricted diet. Likewise, do not offer food to a child if you are not familiar with his or her diet.

Let's return refrigerated foods to the cooler. Also, please remember to discard your plates, and store all the food so that it cannot easily

be reached by young children. Some food can be hazardous to young children who cannot chew yet.

While working with tools in the garden, please be mindful of the children around you. There is a tool shed where community tools are stored. Also, we will provide special garden tools for young children.

Weather changes frequently at the garden. Please bring along a jacket and extra clothes for your child. We will have some extra clothes on hand, too.

Remember to drink water frequently. There will be plenty of water, sunscreen and bug spray available. Also, remember to check for ticks after leaving the gardens. The Family Room staff is trained in First Aid so please see a staff member for help with an injury or to help check for ticks.

Please do not smoke near children. Ask a staff person to point out a place to smoke.

If you have suggestions about how to improve safety, please speak with a Family Room staff person.

Help make the garden a great place to grow!



VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION
OF CHITTENDEN AND GRAND ISLE COUNTIES

The VNA Family Room's Guide to Garden

Safety



VNA Family Room 2011

