

Little Gardeners Curriculum System Map

Reusable framework mapping concepts to recurring routines

Week	Core Concept	Student Learning Goal	Hands-On Activity	Recurring Garden Routine
1	Plant Identification	Recognize different plants and	Observe and name plants	Weekly plant check-ins
2	Helpful vs. Harmful Bugs	Understand basic garden ecosystems	Identify insects in the garden	Bug monitoring and removal
3	Soil Types & Root-Bound Plants	Learn how soil affects growth	Examine soil and roots	Soil loosening and tending
4	Herb Research & Planning	Understand why certain plants thrive	Research and choose herbs	Garden planning discussions
5	Planting the Garden	Apply prior knowledge through planting	Plant selected herbs	Watering and care routines
6	Watering & Care Cycles	Learn when and how to water plants	Practice proper watering	Daily care check-ins
7	Plant Growth & Harvesting	Observe growth and responsible harvesting	Measure and harvest herbs	Gentle harvesting routines
8	Garden Reflection & Stewardship	Reflect on outcomes and shared	Group discussion and review	Shared garden ownership

Design intent:

Each lesson introduces a concept that becomes part of an ongoing routine, reinforcing learning through repetition and reducing cognitive load for mixed-age students.

Weekly Garden Care Roles

Student-facing rotating checklist

Weekly Garden Jobs

(Roles rotate so every student practices each responsibility)

Plant Observer

- Check leaves and stems for changes
- Notice new growth or damage

Bug Monitor

- Look for insects on plants and soil
- Identify helpful vs. harmful bugs with guidance

Watering Helper

- Help water plants as instructed
- Check soil moisture before watering

Soil Tender

- Gently loosen soil when needed
- Help remove debris or weeds

Garden Reporter (*optional for older students*)

- Share observations with the group
- Help summarize what changed this week