

June

at the Environmental Education Center



The Kinder Garden



Great Garden News!



A campaign by the Department of the Interior, titled "Get Outdoors, It's Yours!" encourages children, educators, and families to experience nature firsthand. Studies have found that nature is necessary to a child's healthy development. Children who spend time in green areas will also be engaged in more creative forms of play. There is an opportunity at the Environmental Education Center to get wee folk excited about exploring the outdoors. Tucked away in a corner of the EEC's courtyard is a small play area called the **Kinder Garden**. Small children can walk through a living arbor, climb a rock "mountain" or use a log as a balance beam. They can sit on a tree stump to listen to a story while the sounds of wind chimes fill the air. See if they can find the hidden elephant and owl. The **Kinder Garden** is most appropriate for children under the age of three.

Someone at the front desk would be happy to help you locate the garden.



The Environmental Education Center has numerous gardens for you to explore. The first one you'll encounter as you leave the parking lot is the **Children's Garden**. Many square foot gardens can be found here that are tended (and eaten!) by children who participate in our spring, summer, and fall programs. Located adjacent to this is the **Butterfly Garden and House**. Inside are plants that provide food, shelter, and a great place to complete the butterfly life cycle. In front of the building is the **Rain Garden**. Rain from the roof is redirected to this garden instead of running off into the road. Water loving plants filter and slowly release the water to the surrounding environment. To the left of the driveway is our Special Use Trail. There you will find a **Native Garden, Scent Garden, Touch Garden, Butterfly and Hummingbird Canoe Garden**, and a **Shade Garden**. Three square foot gardens are **Vegetable/Herb Gardens** for our Eco-Explorer children. Continue around the boardwalk and enter into the **Mini-Arboretum** that was just completed this spring. There you will find some native trees and shrubs of New Jersey.

Visit our gardens often to witness their ever-changing beauty and you will be rewarded with a renewed connection to the natural world and an awesome feeling of peace. Each season in the garden graces us with something new and interesting.

Environmental Education Center
190 Lord Stirling Rd., Basking Ridge, NJ
Please visit our website at
www.somersetcountyparks.org!

(908)766-2489



If you have individualized needs due to a disability, please call 908 526-5650 and we will be happy to arrange reasonable accommodations. Three weeks notice is required to ensure that appropriate accommodations can be provided.

If you have individualized needs due to a disability, please call 908 526-5650 and we will be happy to arrange reasonable accommodations. Three weeks notice is required to ensure that appropriate accommodations can be provided.