



**FIGURE 3-1** Young gardeners will thrive in the garden if given the opportunity to be actively engaged..

## GARDEN TOOLKIT

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Gardening opens a world of wonder for children and with the right tools, they can dig in to discover many mysteries. Too often the equipment that enables them to explore is sized for adults and can be unwieldy and unsafe. Durable garden tools designed for a youth audience allow kids to easily complete garden tasks, investigate and remain safe. The list below are suggestions that encourage learning and work in the garden. Set rules for using tools before going into the garden to ensure safety.



**FIGURE 3-2** Well constructed tools will last for a long time.



**FIGURE 3-3** Short-handled shovels can help young gardeners dig in.

### Garden Tools

- **Small Hand Trowels** - good quality tools for kids can be hard to find, but trowels are easily maneuverable and can be found inexpensively.
- **Spade, Short-handled shovel or turning fork** - are all usually short-handled and are strong tools for digging or turning the soil
- **Rake** - rakes smooth soil, pull out weeds, and gathers leaves and debris.
- **Watering cans** - small watering cans can be managed by young children. Fill a large tub of water and let youth fill their own can.
- **Small buckets** - can be used to collect anything in the garden: weeds, seeds, harvest (use separate food buckets) or carry plants. They can be used as watering cans too.
- **Plant labels** - wooden or plastic plant labels mark the names of plants or mark rows.
- **Twine or string** - youth can use twine to mark rows, for square-foot gardening or to tie up plants.
- **Garden hose** - to provide easy water access, find a hose that is the right length to reach the garden.
- **Garden gloves** - to protect young hands. Single-use gloves can be used for harvesting.
- **Wheelbarrow** - kid-sized wheelbarrows permit youth to complete gardening tasks. Full-sized wheelbarrows can be used by adult volunteers.

### Tools for Discovery

It is just as important to have teaching and learning tools in the garden for youth to investigate soil critters, plant growth, and observe the seasons.

- **Hand lens** - give youth a close-up view of the garden and all of her secrets
- **Measuring tools** - rulers, tape measures, and yardsticks allow a student to observe growth, space plants and make math come alive in the garden.
- **Containers** - for collecting living and non-living items for curious inspection.
- **Clipboards** - provide a hard surface for journaling, sketching, poetry and other learning
- **Weather station** - include a rain gauge, thermometer, sundial and a wind instrument to keep tracker of weather in the garden through the seasons.

