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## ***Play in the Garden: Fun projects for kids to enjoy outdoors*** **by Sarah O'Neil**

**Publisher: New Holland Publishers**

**RRP \$34.99**

Any time of year is a good time to get kids outdoors and occupied with fun, satisfying projects that introduce them to the source of some of their food.

As the mother of two young boys, the author knows what interests children. She is also a well-known gardening guru with plenty of practical experience, hints, and tips. Therefore, it's a natural combination of her talents to produce a book of outdoor projects to harness kids' energy and enthusiasm.

Of course, many of the activities focus on growing food. An extensive section at the start gives advice to adults on how to plan a garden and the necessary tasks to keep plants growing. The fun starts for the kids with a worm hunt, then perhaps making stone strawberries to train birds into leaving the real fruit alone.

There's a wide range of garden-related activities and constructions. Kids could make a scarecrow, a bean teepee hideaway, stepping stones, wind chimes made from old CDs to scare away birds, corn husk people, a bug hotel, and plenty more interesting ventures.

Numerous full colour photos illustrate the various projects and are accompanied by clear instructions. The author's two sons show how to achieve success with some of the activities. Very young children will need parental help, while older kids will take pride in tackling some of the projects on their own. Side bars list the equipment that is required, give handy tips, and 'Did you know?' facts.

*Play in the Garden* is an excellent publication that will encourage children to go outdoors, get their hands dirty, and even grow some of their own food.

**Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett**

**Author's website:**

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The Gardening Kiwi's blog:

<https://gardeningkiwi.wordpress.com/tag/sarah-oneil/>

