

**eliminating racism
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ywca

Kalamazoo

YWCA Kalamazoo's

Infant/Toddler Nature-Based Play Space

-supporting inclusion, outdoor exploration, & risk-play for our youngest learners-



A lush surface where little ones can explore the outdoors freely



Ornamental grass adding shade, textures, and natural colors to the outdoor play space



Fragrant rosemary and lavender to stimulate the senses and act as a buffer to stressors

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Introducing children to plants on our playground

1. Explain to children that it's important not to hurt flowers, plants and grass. They are part of the living things on Earth and need to be protected.
2. Teach kids to care for the wildlife. Help children understand the importance of not harming plants. Tell children that the outdoors is the home for the plants and that we need to help them care for their home.
3. Talk to your kids about littering. Trash can be very harmful for wildlife living in the area. Kids can help the outdoors be trash free. We can take care of the outdoors just as we can take care of our home and of ourselves.
4. Children can smell the plants and dirt.
5. Children can gently touch the plants and dirt.
6. Adults can take part in the children's learning about the plants. Ask questions like: What does that smell like? What does that feel like? Can you draw a picture of the plant? What would you name that plant?
7. Adults should be near the children when engaging with the plants and dirt.
8. Adults can support a child's interest in plants through the use of children's books. Kalamazoo Public Library is an excellent resource.

