



How to continue growing food with kids at times of COVID



Kids' Growing City's approach to edible gardening education at pre-Covid, Covid and post-Covid times



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Leila Mireskandari

Founder and Director of Kids' Growing City.

- A former software developer with bachelor's degree in **applied mathematics**.
- **Certified Permaculture Designer**
- Student of **Landscape Design** at New York Institute of Art and Design.
- **Master's** degree in **Environmental Studies** with focus on **researching the obstacles in the way of school gardening**,
- accompanied by "**Environmental Education**" diploma from **York University**
- and "**Business and the Environment**" diploma from Schulich School of Business.



Welcome and thank you!



In this presentation

- Kids' Growing City's mission and vision
- Our pre-COVID work
- Our during-COVID work
- Our plans to serve post-COVID
- Invitation for collaboration



Mission & Vision

To fill the educational gap and **empower** future generation with the **skill of growing food**.

We envision a **successful school garden** in **EVERY SCHOOL** and a **successful kids garden** in **EVERY HOME**.

We do this by connecting children with the **natural origin of their food** by providing **opportunities** for **authentic hands-on** and **comprehensive EXPERIENCES** with growing their own food with their own hands.



Pre-Covid

Kids' Growing City started with a gardening after-school program in a small private school in 2014 and grew into a comprehensive in-school curriculum-connected program that was ran in **14 public schools** in TDSB and YRDSB in **2019**.

Building School Gardens and Programs

Facilitated **10-week** comprehensive **student-centric** school garden programs.

One in **spring** and one in **fall of following school year**; completing 1 full year of garden cycle from **seed to seed**. From **building** the garden to **closing** for winter. ALL DONE BY STUDENTS.

Teacher Training

- In-school training for participating teachers
- in-person Workshops & Conferences
- Online Courses and Clubs since 2014

Helping Parents Grow with Kids at Home

Provided ONLINE classes, workshops and clubs for parents and grandparents since 2014

Fall of 2014



Fall of 2016



Summer of 2018



Fall of 2018



Spring 2019



Fall 2019



Fall 2019





Kids' Growing City's approach to edible education



Based on
EXPERIENCE and
RESEARCH

Urban Permaculture Educational Business

School Gardens, Permaculture and Business Design:

An exploration of school gardening obstacles and solutions

https://www.academia.edu/31307900/Urban_Permaculture_Educational_Business_School_Gardens_Permaculture_and_Business_Design

1

Permaculture Principles and Techniques

- 1.1** Easy to build
- 1.2** Easy to maintain and support in summer
- 1.3** Are built in collaboration with nature, are a contribution to **biodiversity** and **Indigenous studies**

2

Education at the core: Completely student-centric

- 2.1** Built by Students
- 2.2** Taught by Teachers
- 2.3** Supported by Parents, Admins, Care-Takers

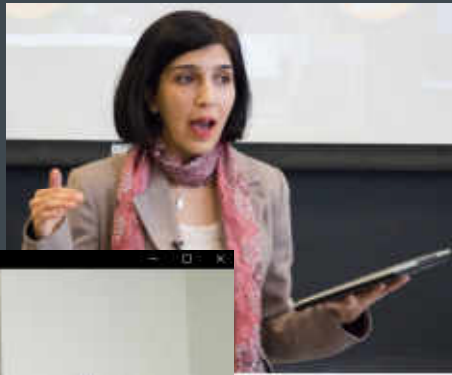
*Absolutely no
physical work for
any adults!*



ONLINE

For Teachers Workshops, Classes and Clubs

For Parents Workshops, Classes and OASIS BOX subscription Club



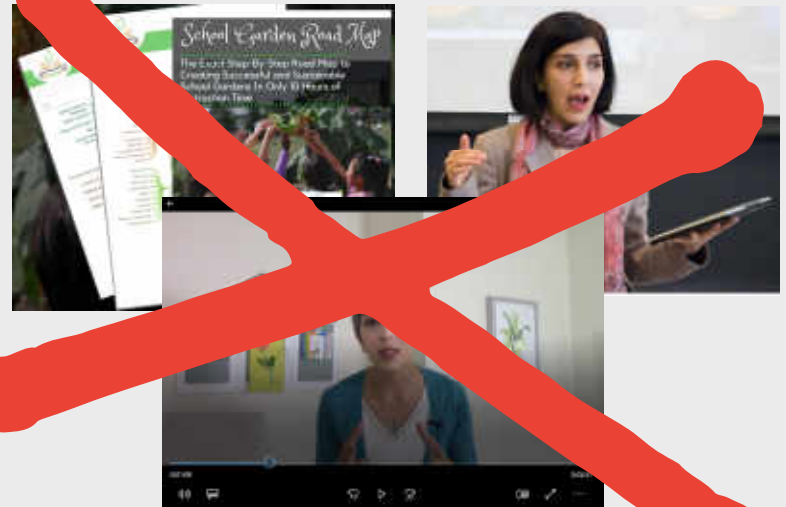


When Covid came

In-School Programs



Online for Teachers



OASIS BOX for Parents





During Covid

Parents
Expanding our reach for
OASIS BOX
Currently serving 50
families



**Serving teachers who
are teaching Online**



During Covid (Continued)

Teachers

Development of a Hybrid In-School Program

Our lesson plans:

- Interactive Lesson
- Hands-on

Train the
teachers to do
the activities

Synchronous (Zoom or
Google Classroom) OR
Recorded Lessons

Our Years of Experience
with Delivering Online
Training

1

Physical Package Delivered
to School

- Our 10 Lesson Plans (Access Online)
- Complete mat for ALL curriculum connections to ALL our Lesson Plans (Access Online)
- 10 Lesson Posters

2

Online Course and Class

- 10 Recorded Lessons for Teachers
- 10 Synchronous Lessons for Students taught by our facilitators

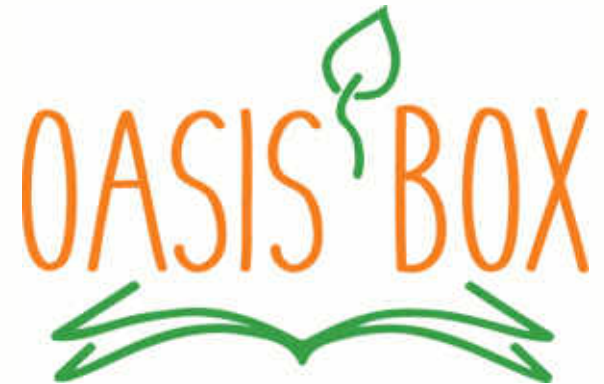


Plans for Post-Covid?

**If there is one thing COVID taught us,
it must be the power of technology!**

There is one thing technology is very powerful at:
If used appropriately, it can **expand our reach to touch more
lives** without the need to physically travel!

**In-School
Hybrid
Program**





Kids' Growing City

Changing the world one
school garden at a time!

Thank you very much for your time and attention.
We hope this opens doors of collaboration leading
to every child knowing how to grow their food.

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