



**Chabad Naples Preschool of the Arts**

1789 Mandarin Rd.  
Naples, FL 34102

**School Profile:**

- Private Preschool
- Ages 18 months – 5 years
- 90 students

**Garden Profile:**

- 3 years in operation
- 80 PreK students in garden program
- Garden Program Manager paid with monthly stipend
- No volunteers

**General Garden Information:**

The garden is on the campus of the Chabad – Jewish Community Center and provides a space for things like weddings. The school has a chef who has been wonderful about incorporating produce in lunches and washing it for snacks.

The garden consists of five raised beds, 12 large planters, a u-shaped bed, as well as bananas, papayas, pineapple, starfruit, and avocado. Beds are constructed of untreated pine boards, concrete blocks, and non-toxic recycled material. Other features of the garden include: a sign with the garden’s name, outdoor teaching space, shaded instructional space with tables, a cooking area accessible to the garden, themed beds (herb, pollinator, and vegetable), and a composting system.



Naples  
Botanical  
Garden

**Student Involvement & Education:**

Students visit the garden every Tuesday for 25 minutes. Structured lessons come from the web or Collier Greens Programs. I am slowly developing a collection of preschool-age gardening lessons that I would like to publish and share with others.

**Garden Product:**

The children pick produce grown in the garden and take it to the kitchen where the chef cleans and prepares it. Once or twice a year, produce is harvested and children “sell” it to parents at a donation-based farm market. Next year, we would like to start donating to a food pantry.

**Parent Engagement:**

Parents receive weekly email updates including gardening photos and our Facebook page includes garden information. Parents are welcome to visit the garden before or after school. Many videos and photos for school events are garden-based. School events are often held in the garden area.

**Goals:**

Our goal is to conduct a teacher and parent evaluation/survey regarding garden programming and expand our program’s yearly produce donations.

**Additional Notes:**

We used last year’s Recognition award to purchase seeds, tools, irrigation materials, soil, and plants.

Preschool of the Arts received Blue Zones status this year and the ribbon-cutting was held in the garden. The garden also hosted a wedding and a grandparent tea party. We also received a private donation of \$26,000.

**Contact:**

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