

GROWING TOGETHER

A Preschooler's Garden Adventure with the Director

In the quiet, sun-dappled corner of the preschool garden, a group of eager little hands helps to hold a brightly colored watering can, their tiny faces filled with anticipation. Today's activity is simple, yet full of meaning: watering the plants with the preschool director. As the children gather around the garden bed, Mrs. Martha smiles warmly and begins, "Just as God waters the earth, we too can help care for His creation by watering these plants."

This moment is more than just about tending to the plants; it is an opportunity for the children to experience hands-on learning while developing both practical and spiritual skills. As the children gently tip their watering can, they are practicing important fine motor skills—learning how to control their movements to pour just the right amount of water without spilling. These early motor skills are essential for later tasks like writing, buttoning coats, or even tying shoes.

But beyond the physical, this act of caring for the garden introduces the children to the Christian value of stewardship—the understanding that God has entrusted His creation to us, and it is our responsibility to take care of it. Elliot exclaims, "We're giving the plants a drink just like us." This connection between nurturing the plants and nurturing their faith is a powerful lesson, even for young minds.



As the children move around the garden, each taking their turn to water the plants, they also practice patience and sharing. They quickly realize that not everyone can water at once, and that waiting for their turn requires patience—a virtue deeply rooted in Christian teachings. "These teachings demonstrate to our children the value of self-control and the importance of considering others," our assistant director, Mrs. Trish, adds.

There is also a deeper lesson in community happening here. The children are not simply watering plants alone; they are working together, learning that the health of the garden relies on the contributions of each person. This echoes the Christian value of unity—just as the body of Christ is made up of many parts, so too does a garden flourish when everyone plays a role. Mrs. Martha encourages the children to notice how the plants grow stronger when everyone helps, saying, “Just like how we work together to care for these plants, God teaches us to work together to care for one another.” As the children observe the garden, they begin to learn about the cycles of life—how plants need water, sun, and soil to grow, much like how they need love, learning, and faith to flourish. They see the results of their efforts over time, experiencing delayed gratification as the plants slowly grow and bloom. This teaches them that not all good things happen right away, a gentle lesson in perseverance and faith. The director shares, “Just like these plants take time to grow, we grow a little every day too, even when we can’t see it yet.”



Through this simple act of watering the plants, the children are also introduced to the concept of care and empathy as they think of the plants as living things that need their care, just as they care for their friends, family, and pets. This nurturing mindset extends beyond the garden, helping the children to develop empathy and a sense of responsibility toward others.

In this moment, watering plants becomes more than just a chore—it’s a rich learning experience that teaches children about responsibility, patience, community, and faith. As they care for the garden, they are learning how to care for the world around them, all while growing in their understanding of God’s love and their place in His creation. Through this shared act of stewardship, the children experience the joy of nurturing both the garden and their growing hearts.

