



FOR RELEASE
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Local School's Garden Wins Award from Whole Foods Foundation

REDMOND, WA – Montessori Children's House (MCH) is the recipient of a generous grant from the Whole Foods Foundation. The grant is a formal recognition of the school's expansive, centrally located garden.

MCH's gardening program was started nearly 20 years ago. But when current Head of School, Jennifer Wheelhouse took over the helm in 2003, the focus on gardening and farming became the school's passion – and is what sets it apart from other local, private schools.

"The Montessori philosophy centers around being a part of the natural environment," says Wheelhouse. "So it made sense for MCH to have a gardening program that added to what our students are learning in the classroom."

At MCH, Early Childhood students spend up to an hour a week in the garden as a part of their normally, scheduled day. MCH Garden Specialist Katherine Stewart takes the children, in groups of up to four students, into the garden where they count seeds as they plant them, harvest the vegetables they planted and study NW native plants and insects.

With the \$2,000 Whole Foods grant, the school plans on converting the garden to being 100% organic and expand the growing space by installing vertical planters. Fruit trees will be planted outside the school's newest building which houses the infant and

elementary classrooms so students can grab an organic snack while walking to class or at recess.

[Watch a video](#) of Jennifer Wheelhouse receiving the Whole Kids Grant (Pictures also available).

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ABOUT WHOLE FOODS FOUNDATION

The Whole Kids Foundation School Garden Grant Program, created in partnership with FoodCorps, has funded more than 2,100 school garden grants across the US and Canada since 2011. Learn more at WholeFoodsFoundation.org.

ABOUT MONTESSORI CHILDREN'S HOUSE

Founded in 1987, Montessori Children's House is the only American Montessori Society accredited school in Redmond and Sammamish. MCH is committed to an authentic Montessori education with an emphasis on nature. Our serene, five-acre campus in a farm-like setting connects students to their natural environment and encourages individualized learning. Learn more at MCHkids.com.