



# First 5 Garden of Wonder and Discovery

The aim of the First 5 Garden is to promote outdoor play and promote children's participation.

This garden was co-designed with young children. The Educators from Creative Kids & Co in Walkinstown supported 20 pre-schoolers to participate in the development of the garden with the garden designers Oliver and Liat Schurmann.

This process followed the Participation Framework championed by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. The Framework is based on the child-rights model of participation developed by Professor Laura Lundy, Queens University, which provides guidance for decision-makers on the steps to take in giving children and young people a meaningful voice in decision-making.

The children participated with purpose. Participation with purpose means that when children and young people are involved in decision-making, their views are listened to, taken seriously and given due weight.



## To learn more about the importance of children's participation and the First 5 Garden:

[www.gov.ie/lets-play-ireland](http://www.gov.ie/lets-play-ireland) or scan the QR code:



In practice, this meant the children discussed, designed and developed their plans to share with the designers. An extensive wall display of the children's drawing, words, understanding and plans was progressed in the pre-school and the garden designers came to visit and inspect the plans. The children then visited Oliver and Liat at their Mount Venus Nursery in Rathfarnham to discover all about the plants and trees that would eventually become part of the garden at Bloom. Oliver and Liat took the children's views very seriously and designed on their behalf and with individual children in mind.

When you visit the First 5 Garden of Wonder and Discovery, you might consider how the garden might look from the height of a 3 or 4 year old. Consider also the elements and sensory aspects in the garden that connect you with your childhood and how you will ensure the children in your life have opportunities to connect to the natural world.



The First 5 Garden of Wonder and Discovery at Bord Bia Bloom 2023 is sponsored by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, and funded by the Dormant Accounts Fund.



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige  
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