The Spiral Garden

An integrated arts, garden, and play program

Sarah Dobbs, Artistic Coordinator
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An arts, garden, and play program for children of all abilities. Every summer children come together with a host of artists, facilitators, and volunteers to engage in four two-week sessions of creativity and imagination.
How did the Spiral Garden begin? Founded in 1984 to de-institutionalize children and encourage awareness of their ability, not limitations of disability.
How is the garden developed?
What art medias are offered?
Who comes to the garden?
Current and past clients of the hospital.
How many children take part?
60 children every two weeks tho.
Who leads the program?
Professional artists specializing in a variety of media collaborate with an artistic coordinator, a special needs coordinator, facilitators, and ... volunteers.
How do we know we are being inclusive and that all children are fully integrated into the program?
Each of these three aspects—Arts, Garden, and Play—are (re)united together in dynamic synthesis. The intentional way we use Story to bring these elements together is key to understanding our unique process. (Annual Report, 2003)
Processes, rhythms, and patterns of the natural world provide a context for healing.
By using their imagination, their curiosity, and the guidance of professional artists, the natural world is animated.
The Spiral Garden builds community through our collective creation.