Creating a Gardening Journal

- You can use paper, a notebook or a computer. Each day at a given time, say 9:00 am - enter the date, temperature and the weather condition (sunny, cloudy, raining etc.) Then, each day, when you can, go outside and observe your surroundings and make an entry for four of your five senses:

- **Sight** – What do you see that has changed since yesterday? Are the daffodils taller? Have tulips started to poke out of the soil? Are there buds on a tree on your street?

- **Sound** – Listen to the sounds around you..... Do you hear birds singing? Can you see where the bird is? Can you see what kind of bird it is? What other sounds do you hear?

- **Touch** – Touch the ground with your finger.... Is it cold? Is it starting to feel warmer? Is it wet or dry?

- **Smell** – Take a deep breath in and then exhale slowly. Do you notice any smells? Where are they coming from? If there are any crocus up in your yard, investigate.... Do they have a smell?

- These entries can be done each day and children can note the growth of plants through measurement to link with math and the family could make predictions as to which plant will blossom first.

- Activities can support art – by drawing what the plant looks like each day as well as drawing a picture of the sky ...... The entries can also support language arts through discovering descriptive words and writing full sentences as well as looking up the spelling of the names of plants.

- At the end of the week, the child could write a summary of what happened outside and how plants and animals are becoming more active in the warmer weather.

- Journals can also include collages – magazines and catalogues often have pictures that can be pasted in to the journal to illustrate a particular discovery.

- And what about the fifth sense – taste? Children can enter the name of a vegetable or fruit that they ate that day.


Source: Christine Saplin, CCE Albany County Master Gardener