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Your Health is on Your Plate

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My daughter (pictured above), now two years out of college, is working at a new community garden, built adjacent to the school that all three of my children attended. A few weeks ago, a little boy who attends the after-school Gardening Club told her, "I only eat vegetables that I grow in my own garden." That kid is a genius.

The best way to get kids to increase the number of fruits and vegetables they eat is to involve them in their preparation. Or creation. Kids are much more likely to eat multi-colored cherry tomatoes (assuming they even make it to their plates!) if they grow and then pick those delicious jewels themselves. There's a much greater chance that they'll finish their kohlrabi if they help grow it, peel it, slice it, and squeeze fresh lemon juice all over it. There's such a big difference between real food and manufactured calories.

If we teach our children to garden, they will understand. And they will never go hungry.

Roxanne B Sukol MD MS

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