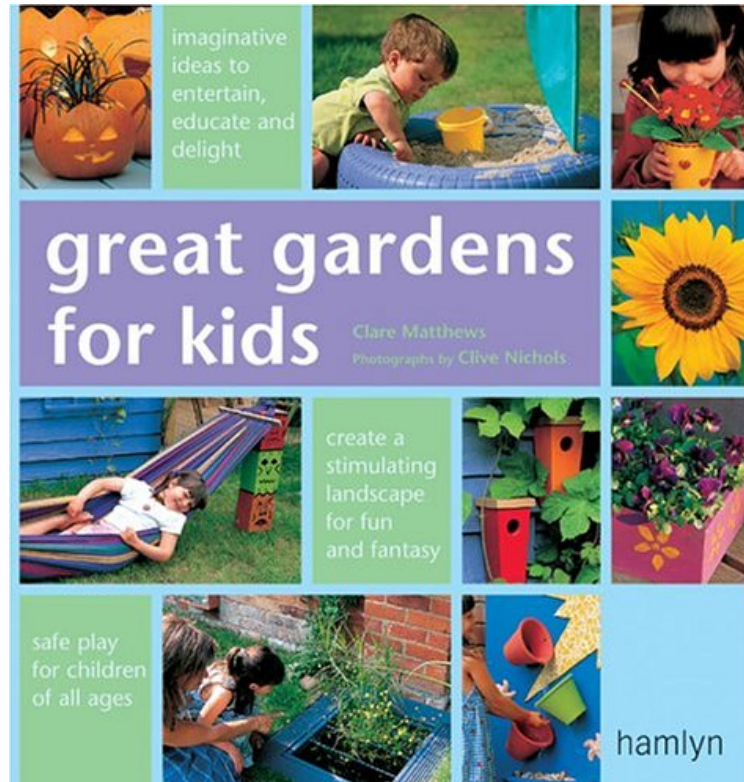


## Great Gardens for Kids

Clare Matthews

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#3392411 in Books 2005-02-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 .48 x 9.02 x 9.50l, 1.45 #File Name: 060061204X160 pages | File size: 53.Mb

**Clare Matthews : Great Gardens for Kids** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Great Gardens for Kids:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A real inspirationBy JacksonsMomI had taken this book out of the library so many times I finally decided to just buy it. I'm very interested in creating a fun and appealing backyard for my two young sons that isn't just filled with plastic playhouses and climbers.The book offers beautiful color photos as well as numbered steps for putting the ideas together. Some of them seem labor intensive, but others are not.The chapters are:1. active play2. a place of their own3. furniture4. water5. growing things6. wildlife pets7. celebrations8. finishing touches9. real children's gardens10. safetyWhat I like: the unique ideas (that we are already using in our yard), like the small trampoline set into the ground. What they don't suggest - and I do - is digging a little hole beneath the springy part of the trampoline so they get plenty of lift when they jump on it. But I thought this was such a fabulous idea. My kids love trampolines, but I wasn't crazy about the risk factor. This eliminates it.What I don't like: the "celebrations" section did nothing for me and I also found that the "real children's gardens" section had most of the ideas I wanted to try. However, that section does not include the numbered steps, though there are brief descriptions of how each was accomplished.All in all, a great book I highly recommend.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful, inspirational bookBy A CustomerThis book is a delight for the eye, even if you never get around to translating any of the very many ideas for child-friendly gardens into reality. However, the suggestions are so inspiring

that you will itch to create them in your own back yard - whether a rope spiderweb for climbing or a grass stool or a clematis teepee to hide away in. If I have any criticism it is that sometimes the instructions take a back seat to the luscious photography. Slightly more detailed instructions would have been a help and a comfort to those of us who are not consummate do-it-yourself-ers. My children enjoyed leafing through this as much as I did and when we run out of space in our own small garden, we will start taking over the grandparents' garden! There are just so many nice projects we want to undertake!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Best kids gardening activity book  
By Jay C. Have read a lot children's garden books. This one is by far the best. Wish I knew about this when my daughter was littler. At 10, she still loves this book and the ideas. We've tried a few and look forward to trying more.

"Matthews celebrates the antithesis of the look-but-don't-touch, no-kids-allowed landscapes...[She] carefully walks even the most tool-challenged adult through more than 35 dynamic projects, depicted in eye-popping photographs."--Booklist "Interesting, entertaining, and educational for children and the young-at-heart."--Library Journal "You can play in the yard, but don't go near the garden!" That's a familiar parental refrain, but gardens can be great getaways for kids. With the 50 colorfully illustrated, simple projects in these pages even the smallest lawn can become a children's paradise. Without compromising on safety, your pocketbook, or the garden's finished look, you can build brilliant hideaways such as flower teepees and washing line tents or construct innovative play structures including mind-boggling mazes and climbing walls. Children will blossom in these landscapes that inspire imaginative play, provide physical challenges, and nurture an interest in nature.

From Library Journal Garden designer Matthews packs her book with ideas for creating gardens that are interesting, entertaining, and educational for children and the young at heart. The projects are divided into the type of activity, such as active play, a place of one's own, pet-friendly areas, and gardening, and come with clearly written instructions. Additionally, clever ideas for garden parties for Easter, a summer's day, and Halloween are provided, as are safety tips. The book concludes with a look at real-life examples showing that kids' gardens can be attractive and fun.

Floodgate (Your Wedding Planner) offers bedroom decorating ideas for infants up to teens. Projects range from simple, such as gluing beads to decorate a mirror, to complex, e.g., building a storage unit. There are instructions for all of the projects, but some require a few basic skills. Books like Wendy A. Jordan's *The Kidspace Idea Book* cover similar material, so purchase only if there is a strong interest in this subject. Gardens is recommended for all public libraries. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Booklist For those who grew up believing gardens were only for grown-ups, Matthews celebrates the antithesis of the look-but-don't-touch, no-kids-allowed landscapes with whimsical garden projects designed especially for the young, and the young-at-heart. By investing just a bit of time and elbow grease, but very little money, grown-up gardens can be transformed into playtime paradises. Not only will flowers flourish, but children will also blossom in these captivating gardens that encourage imaginative play while fostering a love of nature. Matthews carefully walks even the most tool challenged adult through easy step-by-step instructions for more than 35 dynamic projects, each one temptingly depicted in eye-popping photographs. Amusing alternatives to the ubiquitous hardware depot play station abound. A brightly painted tire and some splashy kite fabric update the standard sandbox into a sensational Sailboat Sandpit, while knotted ropes are woven into a spider's web meant for climbing. Some projects are so cool, parents will want them all for themselves, but remember: it's better to share!

Carol Haggas Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Guide to creating imaginative and educational gardens that kids will never want to leave by garden designer Clare Matthews.