CHILDREN’S GARDEN THEMES

1. Rainbow Garden
   - Try planting a variety of colors; purple beans, red tomatoes, green peppers, etc.
   - A fun project is to have children create plant stakes shaped as clouds

2. Plants from A to Z
   - From Asters to Zinnias, gardens are a place of learning!
   - Hide the letters of the alphabet among the plants for a fun scavenger hunt

3. Around the World
   - Planting tomatoes that were cultivated in Spain, peppers from Germany, and onions from Japan makes for a great geography lesson

4. Pizza Garden
   - Basil, tomatoes, peppers, and more make for a delicious pizza
   - Here’s an easy pizza crust recipe for after your harvest:

   **Ingredients:**
   - 1 pkg active dry yeast
   - 1 tsp white sugar
   - 1 cup warm water
   - 2 ½ cups bread flour
   - 2 Tbs olive oil
   - 1 tsp salt

   **Directions:**
   1.) Preheat oven to 450F. In a medium bowl, dissolve yeast and sugar in warm water. Let stand 10 minutes.
   2.) Stir in flour, salt and oil. Let rest for 5 minutes.
   3.) Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface, flatten to desired shape. Transfer crust to a lightly greased pizza pan dusted with cornmeal. Spread with desired toppings and bake in preheated oven for 15 minutes or until golden brown.

5. Touch, Taste and Smell: Sensory Garden
   - Using plants with fragrant smells and interesting textures helps children learn to use all their senses
   - Many herbs are perennial, ensuring a fun garden each year

6. Salsa Garden
   - A fun, no cook method of gardening. Salsa can be made outside in the garden
   - Here is an easy salsa recipe

   **Ingredients:**
   - 4 large tomatoes, diced
   - ¼ cup chopped onion
   - 3 Tbs chopped cilantro
   - 2 tsp minced jalapeno (remove seeds for less heat)
   - 1 ½ tsp lime juice
   - ¾ tsp kosher salt
   - 1 garlic clove, minced

   **Directions:**
   1.) Combine all the ingredients in a bowl. If you want your homemade salsa to have a smoother texture—more like jarred—pulse half the salsa in a food processor, then combine it with the remaining chunky half. Cover tightly and refrigerate for up to 5 days

7. Once Upon a Time: Storybook Garden
   - Choose a story like Cinderella or Jack and the Beanstalk, planting pumpkins or beans
   - Stone Soup is a great book that talks about several kinds of vegetables