



Johnson's Garden Talk

Newsletter archives ... for the friends and customers of Johnson's Garden Centers

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WEST 13th STORE

2707 West 13th St. N.
Wichita, KS 67203
316-942-1443

EAST STORE

6225 E. Shadybrook
(21st @ Woodlawn)
Wichita, KS 67203
316-687-5451

RIDGE ROAD STORE

802 N. Ridge Rd.
Wichita, KS 67212
316-943-0494

LANDSCAPE DESIGN & INSTALLATION NIGHTSCAPING

316-943-6886

CORPORATE OFFICE

316-942-3751

TOLL-FREE NUMBER

888-542-8463

EMAIL

askus@johnsonsgarden.com

WEB PAGE

www.johnsonsgarden.com

Gardening with Kids

Jan Decker, Junior Gardeners' Club Coordinator

At some point in time we have all probably pressed flowers or leaves between newspapers and books. Some of you may have even made a more elaborate press out of heavy cardboard or wood to preserve nature's handiwork, so you know how awesome the pressed beauties are. Now you can help your child preserve some of the fruits of their labor with a new mini press from Johnson's. We've just added this neat little gadget to our assortment of kids' gardening items. It's made of wood, so it won't break, and comes with dividers and papers to press several layers at a time and is equipped with screws to tighten everything in place. And, it is only \$2.98!

Small, thin flowers, leaves or grass work best. Be sure there are no curled edges. Leave for several days. When they are thoroughly dry, you're ready for some more fun. The kids can design cards, bookmarks, note paper, placemats ... whatever their imaginations come up with. They simply arrange their pressed plant materials on paper and cover with clear contact paper. Pretty cheap entertainment.

If your child is more interested in things that crawl and fly, Johnson's has a variety of nets, Bug Bungalows, Activity Jars and magnifying jars that allow for a close inspection of the bug world. No, these captives do not go in the flower press. They should be allowed to return home to tell their family and friends what fun it was playing with your child all day.