

Children's Garden

A special place in the garden has been designed especially for children to explore, climb, examine, and experience the garden. The Children's Garden features two whimsical benches intended to catch a child's imagination. Horace is a bookworm created with great details including a top hat, reading glasses, reading Edgar Rice Burroughs' *The Return of Tarzan*. Wrapped in a huge sunflower, Horace invites children to climb on, over, and under...or just to rest on him with a great book. Created by Fruita artist Pavia Justinian, Horace captures the colorful energy and whimsy of the garden. Pavia's other creation, Iris, is a bench-sized image of a dog often present during story hour at the Mesa County Public Library. Iris loved for children to read to her, so in memory of Iris and her owner, Cindy Bennett, this bench gives visitors a place to relax, rest, and read in the garden.

A fanciful archway built especially for children (adults watch your heads!) leads visitors into a space where raised beds offer easy access to explore the plants and bugs. The edge of the garden boasts sensory plants that tickle all of the senses. Edible gooseberries, raspberries, and strawberries grow in this area of the Discovery Garden. Aromatic lavender and rosemary release their scent when touched and rustling grasses add to the sensory garden. Colorful flowers grow throughout the garden. Right in the center of the mound in the Children's Garden is an apple tree. Still young, this tree will grow to offer beautiful shade and fruit to eat!