

Kids dig in to Hungry Caterpillar garden



BEAR WITNESS: Mia McKenzie, 2, of Myrtleford, has a helping hand from her teddy bear as she prepares a plant for the garden bed.



DIGGING IN: Children team up to work on a garden bed.

IN Eric Carle's classic book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, the title character eats through an entire apple on Monday.

But at Mountain View Children's Centre in Myrtleford, their hungry caterpillar is munching through a garden bed of herbs and vegetables.

Following children's interest in the popular story, the educators in the 0-3 rooms collaborated and came up with the idea of a recycled garden bed made from old tyres donated by Myrtleford Tyre and Battery.

"The children have had lots of fun helping to plant herbs and vegetables which will be used in cooking experiences with the children and in the centre's daily menus," educator Lea O'Donohue said.

"Gardening provides children the opportunity to learn about the environment, recycling, lifecycles, healthy eating and the link between animals, plants and humans."

Ms O'Donohue said children and educators were keen to embark on more exciting projects

to help learn to become more sustainable.

"The hungry caterpillar garden was made possible by the community working together. Many donations small and large were needed.

"A big thank you to Myrtleford Dahlsens Mitre 10 for their donations of plants, fertiliser, mulch and paint, to our families that donated flower and vegetable seedlings and to our staff for coming in on the weekend to paint and construct the garden bed."



TYRED IDEA: Mountain View Children's Centre educator Lea O'Donohue helps children work on recycled garden beds.

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