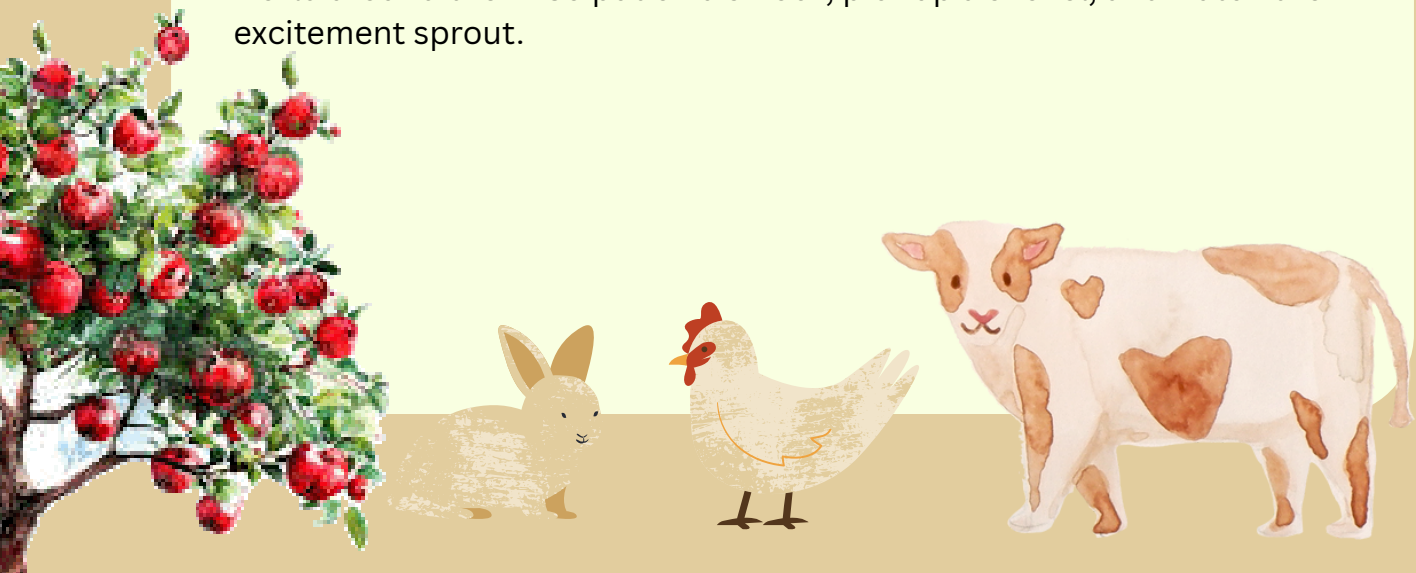


Watch It Grow!
Pet Central, Farmer's Market, and Greenhouse and Gardens

Design Intent: Farmer's Market
The wind is changing, bringing with it the expectant aroma of spring. The rain sinks deep into the earth, coaxing the first green shoots above ground. Sink your fingers into the freshly turned dirt. Feel the warm sun on your back as you tuck the seeds under the soil. Sit back on your heels, taking in the cattle grazing on the hill and the ears of corn that will fill the grocery shelves this summer. Marvel at the magic that happens before your breakfast ever reaches your plate, this is the Farmer's Market.

Design Intent: Pet Central
Every child needs a friend, be they two-legged or four-legged, covered in fins or fur. Pets are a child's companion, secret-keeper, and partner in crime. Whether playing ball with the basset hound or whispering secrets to the goldfish, there is nothing quite like the unconditional love of an animal. Learn what it means in Pet Central to make your furry friend a part of your family, depending on them just as much as they depend on you.

Design Intent: Greenhouse and Gardens
On the fundamental level of necessity, we all have our roots in the soil. The plants that grow in it provide the sustenance and visual appeal that fuel us day to day. Greenhouse and Gardens is set in the backyard garden. A tree stretches out over the potting tables, where kids are busy getting dirty, planting and counting seeds, and all the while, growing a bit themselves. Warmth and texture set the stage for connecting with the world around them. So put on a smock, pick up a shovel, and watch the excitement sprout.



T**echnology Components**

- Light Box-A light box is a versatile tool that enhances exploration, creativity, and sensory learning. It provides an illuminated surface where children can place transparent or translucent materials like colored shapes, leaves, letters, or x-rays to observe light, color, and shadow. This hands-on experience encourages investigation of science concepts such as transparency, color mixing, and reflection. Light boxes can also be used to trace letters, sorting objects by color or shape, or creating glowing patterns and designs.
- Hydroponics Grow System- A hydroponics system is designed to grow plants without soil by delivering water directly to the roots by flooding a tray. It typically consists of a sturdy frame supporting a shallow tray or channels where plants are placed, with a water reservoir and pump system circulating the solution. This setup allows for efficient water use, faster plant growth, and easy nutrient management.

Mural Features

- Horse-Horses are known for their speed, strength, and agility. They communicate through body language and vocalizations, using ear position, tail movement, and facial expressions to express emotion. Horses can sleep both lying down and standing up, due to a locking mechanism in their legs. Their eyes are among the largest of any land mammal and provide nearly 360-degree vision.
- Cattle-Cattle or cows are bred specifically to produce large quantities of milk or meat. Dairy cows are typically leaner with an angular build and have large udders, while beef cows are stockier and muscular with small udders. There are approximately 9.4 million dairy cows in the United States, with California as the top producer and Texas within the top five states for milk production (California, Wisconsin, Idaho, Texas, and New York). There are approximately 87.2 million beef cows in the United States, with Texas leading in cattle production. Nebraska holds the second-highest number with 6.05 million.
- Greenhouse-A greenhouse is a plastic or glass structure meant to cultivate plants by creating a controlled environment that is warmer than the outside temperature. The controlled environment allows plants to grow year-round. Greenhouses trap heat from the sun, warming the air and the soil. The concept of using controlled environments for plant cultivation dates back to Roman times.
- Farm-Agriculture farms are a major contributor to the U.S. economy, accounting for about 20% of economic development. They provide food, jobs, economic output, and they help protect our environment.

Themes to Explore: Farmer's Market

- Supporting Local Businesses
- Farm Animals
- Connecting Farm to Food
- Plants and Animals
- Life Cycles
- Nutrition
- Seasonal Produce
- The Role of Farmers
- Food Sustainability

Themes to Explore: Pet Central

- Responsibility and Caretaking
- Pet Needs and Health
- Pet Identification
- Skin, Fur, and Feathers (Body Coverings)
- Empathy and Trust
- Self-Esteem
- The Benefits of Having Pets
- Homes for Pets

Themes to Explore: Greenhouse and Gardens

- Types of Plants
- Insects and Pollination
- Recycling
- Germination
- Food Origin
- Plant Life Cycle
- Composting
- Gardening Tools
- Healthy Eating
- Weather and Seasons

Mounted Artifacts

- Tortoise Enclosure-The tortoise enclosure can provide opportunities for animal behavior observation and science learning. In addition, students learn empathy and responsibility by helping with simple tasks, such as providing food, water, or observing the tortoise's needs.
- Cash Register/Veterinarian Exam Table-A multi-use dramatic play space that encourages children to engage in pretend scenarios. By providing props such as plush animals, dry erase boards, and faux food items, children assume roles like veterinarian, owner, and store clerk. These fixed spaces support play by inspiring children to socialize with their peers and problem-solve.

List of Hansa Animals

- Farmer's Market: Hen (Brown), Hen Chick, Goat, Pig, Cow, Horse, Sheep
- Pet Central: Bernese Mountain Dog, Pallas Kitten, Bunny, Jack Russel Dog, Golden Retriever Puppy, Cockatiel, Gecko, Safari Ltd. Red-Eared Slider Turtle
- Greenhouse and Gardens: Butterfly, Gold Finch, Honey Bee, Bat, Blue Bird, Lady Bug, Moth

To Find Out More: Farmer's Market

- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- USDA Nutrition.Gov
- South Carolina Farm Bureau

To Find Out More: Pet Central

- National Geographic
- American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
- The Humane Society of the United States
- American Veterinary Medical Association

To Find Out More: Greenhouse and Gardens

- USDA National Agricultural Library
- American Farm Bureau

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