Greenhouse

Design Intent

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* 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.

Technology Components

- Wall Magnifier-A wall magnifier is a powerful tool for encouraging curiosity and close observation. Children can use it to examine natural objects like leaves, petals, insects, seeds, or rocks, noticing details they might otherwise miss, such as tiny veins in a leaf or the texture of an insect's wing. It supports early science skills by helping children explore size, shape, texture, and patterns. Using a magnifier also promotes language development as children describe what they see and ask questions.
- Hydroponics Table- A hydroponics table is a flat, elevated system 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

- Sunflower- A sunflower is a tall, bright yellow flower with a round center filled with seeds. The entire sunflower plant is edible, including seeds. Sunflowers turn to face the sun throughout the day (heliotropism), which helps them get more sunlight for photosynthesis.
- Apple Tree-Apple trees are hardy trees and produce more than 240 million bushels of apples in the U.S. each year. There are more than 8,000 different varieties of apples, and they are generally produced by grafting (joining an existing tree to a root stock) or from seeds. They are easily grown in all climates, depending on the variety.
- Italian Cypress Tree-Italian cypress trees are an evergreen tree with a narrow, columnar shape that can reach heights up to 60 feet. Its dark green leaves are packed tightly along the branches, giving it an elegant look. It's often used as a border in landscaping and has a Mediterranean look.

Mural Features

- Tomato Plant-Tomatoes grow on an annual vine plant that produces flowers, classifying them as a fruit. Believed to have originated in Peru, they now grow all around the world. Each year, Americans consume over 4.3 billion pounds of tomatoes, with more than 10,000 varieties.

Themes to Explore

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

Mounted Artifacts

- Wheelbarrow Sensory Bin-Wheelbarrows are single-wheeled transport tools, used to carry small loads by hand. Their design helps distribute the weight between the wheel and the operator, making heavy loads easier to move.

To Find Out More

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