Children can explore the great outdoors at the annual Day in the Garden on Saturday, July 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Georgetown.

A Day in the Garden, where kids can get their hands dirty

Children love to get their hands dirty when they play outside – but how often is it a learning experience, feeling the texture and smelling the aroma of healthy planting soil?

Sussex County master gardeners will supply such an opportunity as they introduce the new Children's Garden during their annual Day in the Garden open house on Saturday, July 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Parents and their children can watch the caterpillars enjoy fine dining at the Caterpillar Café. Visitors are welcome to flit and flutter along with the butterflies.

Children can count how many different kinds of butterflies they can spot, and decide what their favorite flowers are. They can feel fuzzy lamb's ears and experience the aromas that leaves and flowers produce.

Families will learn how to start and pot a new plant to take home.

Tepees planted with gourds and vines will provide the perfect backdrop for young explorers.

In addition to the new children's feature, A Day in the Garden will feature horticulture demonstrations and advice.

Approximately 25 master gardeners will be on hand to answer questions and examine patients at the sick plant clinic.

The Children's Garden is part of the Master Gardener's Demonstration Garden located behind the University of Delaware's Elbert N. and Ann V. Carvel Research and Education Center, 16483 County Seat Highway in Georgetown. It is a quarter of a mile west of Sussex Tech High School. There is ample parking and the event is free to the public.

For details, visit www.rec.udel.edu or call Tracy Wootten at 302-856-7303, ext. 538, or Karen Adams, ext. 540.