The University of Minnesota Extension Center for Family Development Applied Research and Evaluation Team observed almost half of the program sessions for evidence of student engagement and learning. A comparison was made between children who participated in the program and those who did not.

**Children who participated in the program were:**

- most engaged when they were in their garden.
- Children learned the most when they:
  - worked in their garden
  - discovered new things
  - saw how things grew week to week
  - ate directly from the garden
  - shared what they saw with friends and grown ups
- We know children were learning because they:
  - could answer questions correctly
  - asked follow up questions
  - repeated what they learned
  - corrected wrong information
  - were able to apply what they learned to their home life

- more likely to communicate about observations about how things work - a core science skill.

- slightly more likely to eat meals with their families and spent more time being active by an average of 35 minutes per day.

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Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
Summer 2017
The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum partners with community organizations to reach children across the Twin Cities metro area where they:

- Gain hands-on experiences, including cultivation and caring of their own garden plots.
- Learn about science concepts and thinking as it relates to the garden.
- Learn nutrition concepts and simple ways to prepare fresh foods as a healthy snack.

123 children between the ages of 5 to 14 participated during the summer of 2017 across four sites. 64 were boys and 59 were girls. The average age was 9.

When interviewed, all partner organizations agreed that the program contributes to their mission and is a valuable experience for children and their families. They also expressed a strong interest in continuing to work together.