

Jacob Ballas Children's Garden

Jacob Ballas Children's Garden is **Asia's first children's garden**. Dedicated to the children of Singapore, it aims to provide a place for them to play, explore and be happy in.

Themed "All Life on Earth Depends on Plants", it is created to be a **unique interactive garden** where children can discover how plants provide for their daily needs.

Spot these interesting plants:



Calabash Tree

The fruits of a Calabash Tree are large and smooth. Young fruits can be eaten as a vegetable, while the old fruits have a hard shell that can be made into a container or a musical instrument.

Banana

Also known as the Thousand Banana Plant, its fruits grow in hanging clusters called 'bunches' which are made up of tiers known as 'hands'. Each individual fruit is called a 'finger'. Although the wild species have fruits with many large hard seeds, almost all the bananas we eat are seedless.



Baobab

(also known as **Cream of Tartar Tree, Monkeybread or Dead Rat Tree**)

The Baobab is the national tree of Madagascar. It can live for 2,000 years but pressure from the need for land in its native home has put them under threat. This tree has a swollen trunk and the sour pulp of its fruit is used as food. The fruit is also called monkey bread.

Liberian Coffee and the Cacao Tree

Plants are a wonderful source of food and drinks. Two of the common drinks include coffee, which is brewed from roasted coffee beans, and hot chocolate, which is made from the seeds of the Cacao tree.



Cacao fruit

Liberian Coffee Tree



Anatto

Anatto is also called Lipstick Tree because of the natural red dye you can get from the seeds. The red dye is used for colouring food, cosmetics and soap. In South America, the red dye from Anatto is traditionally used as body paint. The fruits look like rambutans.