

Ethnographing the Garden

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As I serendipitously encountered unique contexts during my dissertation research, I began to gain a deeper understanding of the families of children with disabilities who are participating. One day, I extended my work to a participant's garden and continued my quest. We happily dug, tilled, weeded and planted together as we talked. The process of working with the earth put us both in a relaxed and comfortable mood. I began the interview in a natural, conversational tone. Appearing to feel completely at ease, the mother began to share some of her thoughts about her child, his school and the problems with the system.

Digging the earth

Seeking to know her well

Tilling the land

Mulling over our conversation

Weeding the earth

Airing her misgivings

Planting peppers

Sowing seeds of trust

Binding the earth

Bonding with the family

Hoping for a good harvest

Hoping to enjoy the fruits of our labor

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