

CREATING A CHILDREN'S LAND



Guide showing

how to create a Children's Land (TiNi) in your home, school, neighborhood or community

Creating a Children's Land

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The Association for Children and the Environment (in Spanish, la Asociación para la Niñez y su Ambiente, ANIA) is a non-profit organization created in Peru in 1995. ANIA's mission is promote initiatives that empower children and young people as agents of change for sustainable development from their homes, schools and community. This Guide is part of the "TiNi" or Children's Land methodology, which has been recognized by UNESCO as best-practice in education for sustainable development.

We would like to thank the children, youth, parents, principals, teachers, trainers and volunteers that have contributed to the creation of Children's Lands in Peru and other parts of the world. We are also grateful to the corporations, civil society organizations, international cooperation, foundations, local authorities, museums and universities that have helped Children's Lands to be replicated and strengthened.

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DISCOVER YOUR NEW MISSION

Hello! My name is Tawa. I'm a shaman from the jungle and I'm the grandfather of Ania and Kin. I live in this garden, which was once part of a beautiful forest. The garden is also the home of an important tree named Meshi. Meshi is special because she has the job of producing all of the seeds and flowers for every plant in the world! Many animals, especially birds and insects would come and pick up Meshi's seeds and pollen and spread them throughout the world. But recently, Meshi has stopped producing seeds and flowers because there is no one to help her disperse them.

It is difficult for the animals to reach her because of the buildings, traffic and noise. Most people don't even feel it is important to help nature because they have become disconnected from the natural world.




What's happening to our mother earth?



Today, our planet is sick because most human beings have forgotten how to love and protect the earth. Many people mistreat plants and animals, and they pollute the air, water and soil that all of us need to live.

We are forgetting to teach our children how to love nature, and we ignore those who still remember how to care for the earth, like the Indigenous peoples.



"But now, this is going to change!" says Ania (Tawa's granddaughter). "My brother Kin and I have promised to help spread Meshi's seeds and pollen throughout the world again. But we will need help from you and as many other children as possible. We need you to create and protect special, safe places in your home, school and community, so that the birds and other animals can find their way to Meshi again. They will have a place to rest during their journey, and they can also plant Meshi's seeds on your land. Plants will grow and life will flourish all over."

These special, safe places that Ania is talking about are called TiNi, which in Spanish means "Tierra de niñas, niños y jóvenes". In English, we call a TiNi a "Children's Land". It is a place where children and youth nurture life allowing humans and nature to live in harmony again.

We have an awesome mission: Together, we are going make the world a better place! Prepare yourself to learn how to create a Children's Land. Are you ready?

Children's Land (TiNi)



What is a Children's Land?

It's a space that adults give to us. It can be small (half a square meter or 3 flower pots) or very large. It is a place where we choose to nurture life and make decisions that will benefit nature, other people, and ourselves.



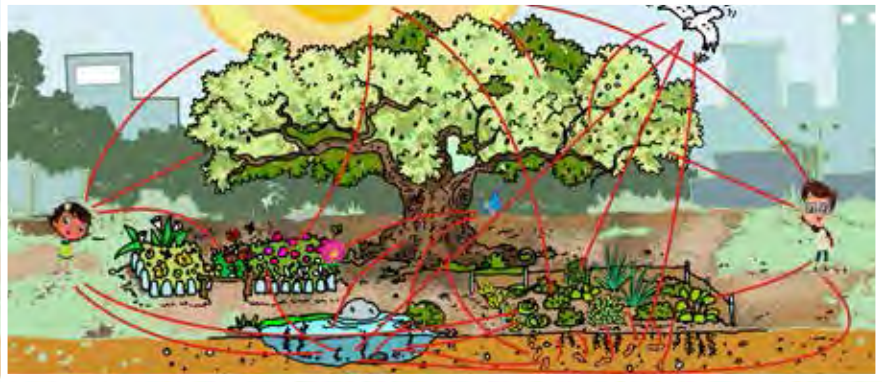


By creating a Children's Land you become a
"Caretaker of Life!"

To be a good "caretaker of life", you have to understand that when you care for a plant, it cares for you. When you care for an animal, it cares for you, and when you care for children, they care for you too. That's how we can grow together and take care of each other. And that's how we can make the world a better place for all.

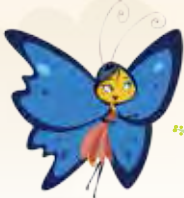
The three parts of a Children's Land

Everything in the world is connected: The air, the water, the soil, the plants, the animals, and the people. What we do to the world, we do to ourselves. When we become aware of this, we understand that if nature and those around us are cared for, we will be cared for also.



That's why on a Children's Land we always do things that equally benefit:

- a. Nature;
- b. Our family and other people;
- c. Ourselves.



Hi! My name is Beal! A good example of this is how Ania planted flowers for me (nature), lemongrass to cure her brother's stomachache, and oregano for herself (because she loves to eat pizza).



What can you do on a Children's Land that benefits nature, other people and you?

✓ Play, explore, nurture, create, innovate and inspire.

✓ Plant and take care of existing trees.

✓ Grow plants for pollinators.

✓ Value your culture.

✓ Grow plants for food.

✓ Create refuges for animals.

✓ Grow medicinal plants.

✓ Protect and reuse water.

✓ Create a seed bank.

✓ Reuse safe solid waste.

✓ Express your feelings through art.

✓ Spend quality time with your grandparents.

✓ Unite your family with positive values.

✓ Acknowledge the contribution of children and youth.

Steps for creating a Children's Land

1. Get a space and a partner

- The space should be:
 - Safe.
 - A piece of land that is at least half a square meter (or three plant pots).
 - Given to you by an adult who owns the space.
 - Adequate in size. The size reflects the availability of:
 - Water.
 - Seeds, plants, fertilizer, tools and other resources needed.
 - The amount of time and help that you will have to care for your land.
- The partner or ally should be:
 - An older sibling, adult or grandparent
 - Someone you trust.
 - Committed to protecting the space and helping you to create your Children's Land.

You can create the Children's Land in your house, apartment, school, neighborhood or community. It can be in flower pots, a garden, on a balcony or a terrace. It can be a small part of a farm, a beach, a forest, a mountain or in other places.





• TiNi in a home



• TiNi in flower pots



• TiNi in a school



• The Children's Little Mountain



• The Children's Forest



• TiNi in a neighborhood



• The Children's Beach

2. Create the vision for your Children's Land,

How do you imagine your Children's Land
Make a list of the things you would like to have and plant in your Children's Land. They should;

- Make you happy and be good for you.
- Make your family and other people happy, and be good for them.
- Be good for nature.

Your Children's Land should reflect what you think the world should look like! It's your "vision". Draw it and give it color.



Hi! I'm Huinsi and he is Curhui. Remember that if you are working in a group, it is better to share your ideas and decide together on what you want to do. Keep in mind the resources you have available and ensure that you are being realistic about what you can do. Remember that the adults can give you good advice.

When you're ready, share your drawing and vision with everyone. If you can, create a banner or poster and display it!



3. Give your Children's Land an identity

It is important that your Children's Land has its own identity. You want it to stand out and inspire lots of people. Use your imagination to create things like:



A name



A logo



A stamp



A diary

4. Protect your Children's Land

If needed, and if possible, you can make a fence around your Children's Land using old car tires, bamboo, plants, poles or other materials. This will make sure that other people know that the space is part of a Children's Land, and will hopefully prevent big animals from trampling it. Decorate the fence and put up signs.



STEPS FOR GROWING LIFE ON YOUR CHILDREN'S LAND

1. Protect the soil and its inhabitants


The soil in your Children's Land should be a place full of life, which is why it must be protected and nurtured. The soil is where plants grow, including the fruits and vegetables that you will eat. It will also be the home of many little animals. Respect them and observe them... They can teach you many interesting things.




You will learn which animals improve the soil, and which ones protect the plants from plagues. For example, earthworms and woodlice improve the soil. Lizards, toads, frogs and ladybugs protect the plants. Make sure your Children's Land is a home for these animals. Once the soil is healthy, you can start planting seeds and plants.

How Can I Create my own natural fertilizer?

- Choose a part of your Children's Land that you don't visit very often (near the back of the land or next to a wall).
- Get a bottomless bucket or box and place it over the earth. Here you can put solid organic waste such as fallen leaves, roots, twigs, dead flowers, dried stalks and cut grass. You can also add egg shells, vegetables and fruit peels.
- Place dry leaves over the solid organic waste, to help the decomposition process. Don't forget to sprinkle some soil over all of it to keep flies away. Always remember to close the bucket or box with a lid.
- Add a bit of water to your compost once in a while, to keep it moist (but never soggy).



Hi, I'm Guacala, the Compost Monster! Hahaha. Give me a place to live on your Children's Land and together we'll make sure the plants grow up to be healthy and strong.




Did you know that Guacala eats solid organic waste, especially plants? And the insects, worms and bacteria help him to turn the "waste" into organic compost and humus for the plants.




CENTRO DE COMPOSTAJE




2. Grow plants that are beneficial and native



Native plants are ones that originally grew in your area. They grow well because they know the soil and the climate. They also improve local biodiversity. For instance "Huaranguay" is a tree that is native to Lima. "Huarango" is a tree that is native to Ica. "Queñual" is native to the Andes and the "Lupuna" tree is native to the Amazon



Identify the plants native to the place where you live and plant them on your Children's Land. The more plants there are, the more pure air we have to breathe!



Some of the benefits that plants give to nature, you and me

- They give us food and medicine.
- They give us seeds to plant.
- They give us flowers, pollen and nice smells.
- They protect and nurture the soil.
- They give us clean water.
- They create homes for animals.
- They provide shade and cool down the environment.
- They make the landscape beautiful.
- They give us a place to play and rest.
- They purify the air and reduce noise.
- They produce oxygen (O₂)
- They capture carbon dioxide (CO₂)
- They give us wood.
- Through photosynthesis, they capture the sun's energy and convert it into organic material.
- They provide us with company and teach us how to take care of living beings.



Just like you and me, plants need several things to grow and flourish:

- Sunlight
- Clean air
- Water
- Fertile soil
- Constant love and care



Steps for growing a plant

From a seed:

1. Loosen up the soil where you will plant the seed.
2. Make a hole three times as deep as the length of the seed.
3. Place 2 or 3 seeds into the hole and cover it up with soil.
4. Make sure to water the soil regularly.



Create a seed bank so that you save new seeds, give them away as presents or trade them with others for new seeds.



From a seedling:

1. Make a hole in the soil that's a bit bigger than the seedling's pot or bag.
2. At the bottom of the hole, sprinkle some organic compost or humus.
3. Carefully remove the seedling from its packaging or pot.
4. Place the seedling in the hole so that the base of its stem remains at the surface.
5. Shovel earth over the roots until the hole is filled up.
6. While the seedling is small, water it every two days. Don't flood the plant, because it needs to breathe.

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



3. Create habitats for birds, pollinators and other animals

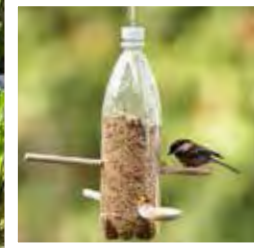
On your Children's Land, create a safe space where birds, butterflies, bees and other animals can live, sing, drink, eat, rest and disperse seeds and pollen in your community and throughout the world.

- Plant and protect trees and bushes where they can build their nests.
- Construct a feeder.
- Create a bird bath.

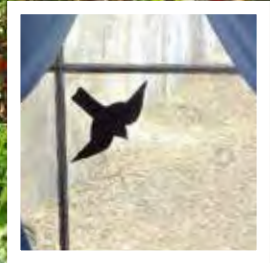


Hello! My name is Lucina. You can plant flowers like me that have lots of nectar. The nectar attracts many other friends that can help pollinate the flowers, such as bees, hummingbirds and butterflies like Bea, who always visits me.





BOSQUE
Mágico



Hi! I'm Araru! To keep me and other birds from accidentally crashing into windows, you can stick a black silhouette of a bird on the windows, like in the photo above. Thanks!



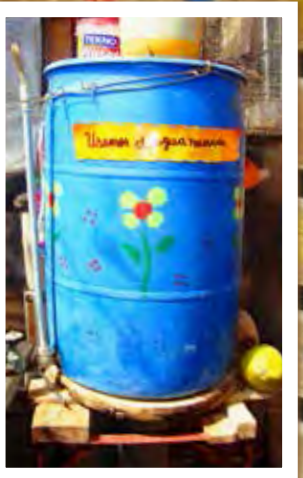
4. Save water and its inhabitants

Fresh water is indispensable. All of us need fresh water to live and to be healthy. Glaciers and ice caps are melting, and rivers and lakes are being polluted. Fresh water is crucial for irrigation, drinking and hygiene. On your Children's Land, you can learn how to save water and teach others to do the same.

Be creative in finding ways to save water. For example, you can:

- Collect and reuse water from the shower while you are waiting for the water to heat up.
- Reuse water that you have used to boil eggs, and wash fruits and vegetables with it.
- Water plants in the early morning or evening.





You can create small ponds that animals can use to bathe and drink from. Change the water regularly and frequently, and reuse the old water to water your plants.

Hi, I'm Glup! Help aquatic animals like me to live in clean water. Avoid using plastic bags- many end up in the water and we eat them thinking they are food... Then we get sick. Separate your waste and keep it from being thrown into our rivers, lakes and seas! We'll be so grateful to you!



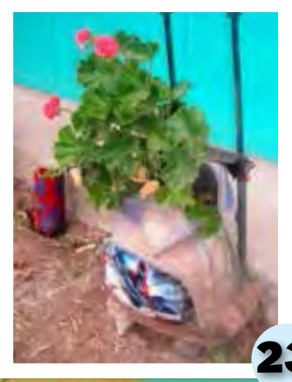
5. Reuse and recycle materials

To reduce pollution, you will have to learn to:

- Reduce: Create less garbage.
- Reuse: Reuse things rather than throwing them away.
- Recycle: Create new things from old materials.
- Respect the environment: Use products that do not harm us or nature.



Hello, I'm Lata Data! I'm made from a recycled can. Make a list of things you can safely reuse and recycle for your Children's Land such as: Car tires, plastic bottles, pieces of wood, old signs, and many other things. Use these materials to make fences, flower pots, watering cans, bird baths, signs and more.



6. Express your creativity and feelings through your Children's Land

Your Children's Land will be a special place where you can positively express what you feel and think. Write positive messages on signs, decorate the fence, paint stones, create banners, or invent dances, songs, stories, poems and games especially for your Children's Land.





Give your Children's Land some color! Remember that decorations should not overpower nature's beauty, and that the materials you use should be safe for you and for the environment.



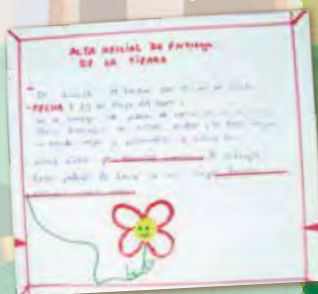
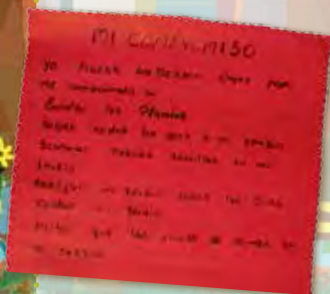
7. Celebrate your Children's Land and keep it full of life and joy.

Inaugurate the Children's Land when you feel that the time is right. Invite your family, friends, those who have helped and those you love to come and be inspired.

- Tell them what inspired you to create your Children's Land and how you did it.



- Read your commitment out loud and ask your adult partner to read out their commitment to the Children's Land too. Glue the written commitments into your Children's Land diary.



- Together, celebrate your Children's Land inauguration.



Ideas for keeping your Children's Land full of life and joy as years come and go

- Grow plants, collect their seeds and trade them for new seeds.
- Create a compost to make your own organic fertilizer for your plants.
- Reuse water in your home to water the plants in your Children's Land
 - Create new products with your logo and reuse old materials (t-shirts, pins, painted stones, bracelets...)
- Get a volunteer to help you. If your Children's Land is in a public space, ask people to come visit.
 - Keep track of the environmental calendar and hold events on your Children's Land during special celebration days (such as Earth Day or International Water Day).
- Share your Children's Land with other kids, and if for some reason you can't maintain your Children's Land, give it to someone who will care for it.
- Show your Children's Land to other kids and teach them how to make their own.
 - For your birthday, Christmas and other holidays, ask for presents for your Children's Land.
 - Come up with other creative activities to raise funds.



BE PART OF THE GLOBAL CHILDREN'S LAND NETWORK



Once you have implemented your Children's Land, follow these steps:

- Create a blog or a Facebook page for your Children's Land.
- Write to the Facebook page "Red Global TiNi and be added as a member.
 - Show your Children's Land to your family, neighbors and friends. If you know other children interested in starting their own Children's Land, you can help them and inspire them as they begin their exciting journey!

Today, there are Children's Lands in over 50% of the regions in Peru, and in 10 different countries worldwide.



After

Before





Look at these Children's Lands in homes!



After

Before





San Pedro - Ica



Santa Cruz - Ica



Miraflores - Lima

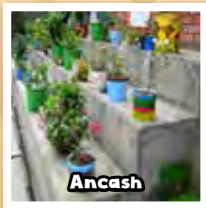


Cuzco



Piura

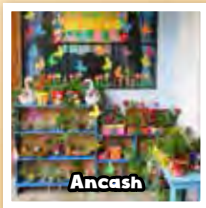
Look at these
Children's
Lands in
schools!



Ancash



Cuzco



Ancash



Antes

Before





Madre de Dios



Madre de Dios



Tumbes



Madre de Dios



Lambayeque



Lambayeque




Lambayeque

Look at these Children's Lands in neighborhoods and communities!



Cuzco





Together with the children and youth around the globe, we will create a world where people and nature are connected and can live in harmony and balance once more. Children's Lands will become islands of hope where animals, plants, seeds and dreams can grow, flourish and multiply. The world will be filled with life, health... and lots of happiness!

Thank you, Meshi, grandfather Tawa, and all of nature for showing us how to be "Caretakers of Life"! Now, let's go make our world a better place! Yaaaaaaay!



ESPERANZA

ALEGRÍA

AMOR ALIEN

RESPETAR

MATERIALIDAD

RICH

REAJE

FELICIA

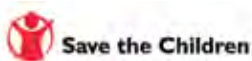


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This guide aims to show children and youth how to create Children's Lands in their homes, schools, neighborhoods and communities.

For more information, visit:
www.ania.org.pe



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