

MAKING A FAMILY GARDEN

This is a fun way to reinforce behaviors which contribute to family harmony. First identify a specific family dynamic that needs attention and raise it with your family. Discuss ways to improve the situation. Then get ready to grow the garden!

Designing the Garden:

Make a rainbow garden (based on the description found in *Conjugal Love* 294). This garden seems to be laid out in concentric circles with green roses at the center, then blue roses, yellow roses, and red roses on the outside. (Note: The green and blue roses remind us that heaven has wonders never seen on earth.) You may want to have a circular garden or perhaps a semi-circle.

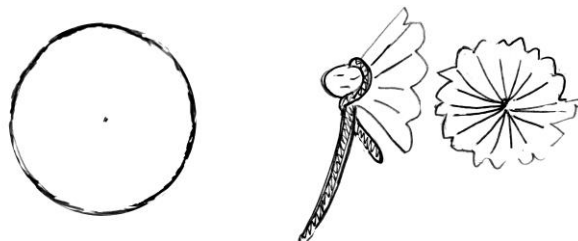
Alternative: Make your own design for the garden or let it evolve.

Materials for the Garden:

round pieces of tissue paper in a variety of colors (4 in. or 10 cm. in diameter)
glue or tape
poster board or other backdrop

How to Make the Flowers:

1. Take 2 or 3 round pieces of tissue paper and poke a finger in the center to form the flower, twisting it in the back.
2. Separate the layers (the pieces of tissue) to form the petals.
3. Attach the flower to the poster board with glue or tape.
4. Note: If you are making a rainbow garden, use a pencil to mark where to switch colors.



Dialogue:

Parents let children know when they may add a flower to the garden. A mother might quietly tell a child, "I think you ought to put a flower in the garden." This privilege should reward effort to improve the targeted family dynamic. A child may say, "I tried Dad, but it didn't work," and parents may want to reward a sincere effort.

Celebration:

We hope that as the garden grows, so will family harmony. When the garden is completed, you may want to celebrate with some special outing, such as going to the zoo, having a picnic, going to the movies, or visiting a botanical garden.