



## GARDENING TIME!

MAY 17, 2012

This weekend we had such a treat: one day without rain and even (yes!) a few rays of sunshine!! Hurray for May! Seriously, the weather has been so lousy here in Amsterdam, we're in much need of sun. Anyway, we decided it was time to spend a day in our little garden to plant all the seedlings we'd grown in the windowsill of the kid's room the last weeks: tomato, pumpkin, courgette, sunflowers, **nasturtiums**, sweet pea... They had by now grown into little puppy plants so it was time for them to hit the rough Amsterdam climate outside.



Carrots, radishes, salad and rocket are best sown in the full ground (outside). If you don't have a garden or balcony, you can also easily grow these vegetables on your window sill. Just one word of advice (we keep doing this wrong!) - don't sow the seeds too close together, or the carrots, radishes etc don't have room to grow! Plain salad and rocket are also super easy to grow (even in the windowsill), and you can keep cutting their leaves for a long time.

Of course we set the children to work immediately. They love gardening! Obviously the small scale of our vegetable garden-to-be will far from feed our entire family, but it's a real pleasure to harvest our own grows, little as it may be, and it's educational for the children. Here are some really fun ideas for gardening with kids:



Sara received this super cute [Gardening Giftbox](#) (from French brand Moulin Roty) as a gift and it comes filled with little pots, compost, seeds, a watering can and gardening tools - all packed in an adorable little suitcase. So cool! Sara and her friend spent hours working in the garden, preparing the soil, sowing their seeds, watering the plants, etc.





I got some bags of [seeds](#) at the [Balcony Gardener](#). These bags are really pretty and also make gorgeous gifts (I just ordered a few more of them!). They also sell beautiful quality kid's sized [gardening tools](#) which we love.



Finally, if you live in the Netherlands or Belgium (or speak Dutch), this little [Moestuinkabouterpakket](#) is such fun and so very, very cute. It comes with seeds, bags to sew them in, labels, a little book about the garden gnomes that will help you to look after the seedlings (provided you make sure their hat and coat is hanging ready for them to wear!).

xxx Esther

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