



## **The Farm Head Start Center**

The Farm Head Start Center, located in Soquel, California is part of the Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center's Child and Family Development Programs. When the Farm opened this fall, the outdoor play area lacked the "loose parts" that encourage a variety of movement activity. Natural elements to invigorate the senses and add variety and challenge were also missing. With funds from HSBS, the center purchased the Fundamental Movement Package from Peaceful Playgrounds, the Loose Parts Play Package from Natural Playgrounds Company and Gardening supplies from Gardening with Kids. Partnerships with two community groups added a garden and sandbox to the play space.

The children and staff explore the garden everyday, watching it grow and sampling nutritious treats. The wooden blocks, stepping stones and balance log are all big hits. The children build; create obstacle courses, balance, and climb. They find new ways to move everyday.

