Veggie garden sprouts at Millhill Child & Family center in Trenton

At Millhill Child & Family Development, in Trenton, NJ, Kaysha McKim, right, a Food Corps service member serving at Isles, Inc. helps students get started planting of a new garden at the center. Millhill won a grant from the state department of Agriculture to plant a vegetable garden on the property to teach kids about where food comes from and the importance of healthy eating. Michael Mancuso/The Times

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TRENTON — Getting their hands dirty, the students and staff at the Millhill Child and Family Development center broke ground on a new vegetable garden at the child care facility on Oakland Street today. With the help of Kaysha McKim, a Food Corps service member working with Trenton-based Isles, Inc, the students filled the raised beds with lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and kale. Isles is a community support and redevelopment nonprofit.
The school is one of eight early-childhood centers in the state that won a $1,500 grant through the state Department of Agriculture to fund the garden project.

Staff members at the childcare center have said they will use the garden as an opportunity to teach about the importance of healthy eating. The garden will also help the students, who live in an urban center, to learn where their food comes from and how it is grown.

The state received the funding for the Millhill garden and 10 other locations around the state through a $324,151 Team Nutrition Training Grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.