Podcast: Gardening Buds

Episode Title: How does my garden fit into the bigger garden?

Duration: 10’ 28”

[ABC Podcast sting – This is an ABC podcast]

[birds tweet]

**Costa:** Hi, it's Costa here. Thanks for joining us at Gardening Buds. If you're new to the podcast, head back and start from episode one. If you've been with us from the start, let's get into it.

[phone rings]

[hold music starts]

**Costa:** Welcome back to the Gardening Buds hotline. Your bud is raking some leaves, but we'll be with you shortly.

[hold music ends]

**Costa:** Hello?

**Caylee:** Hi, Costa.

**Costa:** Caylee, how are you going?

**Caylee:** Good. How are you?

**Costa:** I am really good. What's happening?

[upbeat music starts]

**Caylee**: I've got another joke for you.

**Costa:**  Okay, I'm ready.

**Caylee:** How excited was the gardener about spring?

**Costa**: I don't know. Tell me.

**Caylee**: So excited, he wet his plants.

[Costa and Caylee laugh]

**Costa:** For today I'd love to invite you back to Gardening Bud's HQ because there's a little bit more I'd like to show you.

**Caylee:** That sounds great, Costa. Me and my mum will be over in a jiffy.

**Costa:** Excellent.

**Caylee:** Bye.

[dial tone]

[door opens and closes]

[skipping]

[bell rings]

**Costa:** Coming!

[door opens]

[music ends]

**Costa:** Ah, welcome back, Caylee. I am always happy in Gardening Buds HQ, particularly when I get visitors and buddies. You ready?

**Caylee:** Yeah, I'm ready for anything that comes my way. See you soon, mum.

[happy music starts]

**Costa:** Okay. Now the thing I want to talk about today is that any space can grow a garden, but the thing we've got to remember is that gardens aren't just for us people.

**Caylee:** uh huh

**Costa:** Gardens are home to lots of different species and that way we call our house a home, but when you look out into the garden, that's called a habitat. So, a habitat is a place where a bird can come and visit and live, or a habitat could be where the bees come or it could be where the hoverflies gather.

**Caylee:** Or when the frogs come. Ribbit, ribbit, ribbit.

**Costa:** Exactly. And we've got a pond here at Gardening Buds HQ, and that pond fits in with all the other things that you see. The trees provide shade for the pond and the plants growing in the pond provide a home for the frogs and the tadpoles. The trees also provide a resting spot for the birds and they come and look over the pond and think, "Oh, can I catch something?"

[sound of water flowing]

**Caylee:** Cool and are those ants in the water?

**Costa:** No, they're little boatman.

**Caylee:** A boatman?

**Costa:** Yeah, they're tiny little boatmen. See their little legs on either side. That's like their fins and they...

[frog croaks]

**Costa:** Oh, can you hear the frog? Can you hear it?

[frog croaks]

**Costa:** Hello?

[frog croaks]

**Costa:** How are you?

[frog croaks]

**Costa:** Caylee's here.

**Caylee:** It's kind of like (Caylee makes a frog noise)

**Costa:** Say hi to Caylee.

[frog croaks]

**Costa:** They love it when we get visitors here at Gardening Buds HQ. So over here, there's habitat for the insects. So I've got native bees over here and they live in this hive, but then they go out to all the plants and when the plants flower, they pollinate the plants. So the plants provide habitat for the bees to come, but the bees pollinate the flowers. Can you see how it's all connected?

**Caylee:** Uh-huh (affirmative) and I have a question.

**Costa**: Yep.

**Caylee:** Didn't this used to be a swimming pool?

**Costa:** This did used to be a swimming pool and we changed it into a nature pond.

[splashing water]

**Caylee:** Why would you decide to change this?

**Costa:** Because I wanted the swimming pool to be a place for nature. And this way the frogs came back, the birds come and visit, the dragon flies visit.

**Caylee**: Ooh, I love dragonflies.

**Costa:** And when it rains, all the water from the roof of the house now comes into the pond. So this is fresh water and everything comes for a drink. I've even seen lizards come. See that branch over there?

**Caylee:** Yeah.

**Costa:** That's like a bridge and the lizards can walk on it and then they go (costa makes a slurping noise)

[thunder and rainfall]

**Costa:** Oh, listen to the rain.

**Caylee**: Cold rain too.

**Costa**: Hang on one sec, Caylee. I'll just get these clothes in before it rains.

**Caylee**: I want to eat the rain!

**Costa**: Okay, let's get of the rain so we don't get too wet.

[wet footsteps]

**Caylee**: Why does it always go inside my eye, not on my glasses?

**Costa:** It's a little bit drier here out of the rain, isn't it?

**Caylee:** Yeah, it is. And a bit more warmer.

[gentle guitar music starts]

**Costa**: Now the thing about a garden, Caylee, is that you can have a garden at your place, but it's not alone. Your garden is part of nature and it's kind of like a stop on the hopscotch board because when you have a garden and then your neighbor has a garden and there's plants on your street, then all of nature, all of the insects, all of the birds, all of the wildlife, can go from one place to another. And you know what we call that? A pollinator corridor.

**Caylee**: Whoa.

**Costa**: The flowers need the bees because the bees pollinate the flowers, so the flowers need the bees and the bees need the flowers. It's a relationship.

**Caylee:** That makes sense.

**Costa:** So if you have flowers and plants in your garden, what do you provide for nature?

**Caylee:** Uh, food.

**Costa**: Food, and what else?

**Caylee**: Uhhh… Shelter?

**Costa:** Exactly. And that's known as habitat. So your garden becomes a house, it becomes a home. So what things do you want to attract?

**Caylee**: I want to attract some bees, birds, butterflies.

**Costa**: Butterflies. Here's the thing. If you want the bees to come, you need flowers. If you want the butterflies to come, you need to plant the plant that will attract them. And you know what we call that? It's called a host plant.

**Caylee**: Host plant.

**Costa**: Yeah, it's the host, like the host of a party. Come to my garden and I will host you. So if we plant a butterfly host plant, they'll come.

**Caylee**: What plants are host plants?

**Costa:** Host plants are plants that the insect or bird or butterfly needs in its life. So it could be a plant that it can eat the leaves, or it could be a plant that it comes and gets the pollen and the nectar from.

[frog croaks]

**Caylee**: So they could be all different types of plants?

**Costa**: Exactly.

**Caylee**: I definitely want host plants in my garden.

[music ends]

**Caylee:** Costa, I have a question. Is the whole world a garden?

**Costa**: Yeah. We live on a garden planet and every little piece of the planet makes up the garden.

[rain intensifies]

**Caylee**: Whoa. It's raining really heavy now.

**Costa:** And look at where the water's going from the roof of the house. Where's it ending up?

**Caylee:** In the pond.

[quiz theme music starts]

**Costa**: Caylee, before we head home for the day, we need to do the Gardening Buds quiz.

**Caylee**: Awesome. I love the Gardening Buds quizzes.

**Costa**: Are you ready?

**Caylee**: Come on, let's do this thing.

**Costa**: Get your quiz hat on. Question number one. What's the name of a plant that birds, bees and bugs need to eat and breed and visit?

**Caylee**: Flowers that have pollen.

**Costa:** Do you want a clue?

**Caylee**: Yes, please.

**Costa**: Okay. If I was coming to your birthday party, your mother and father would be the something-

**Caylee:** Host!

[birds tweet and a crowd cheers]

**Costa**: Exactly. Question number two. You ready?

**Caylee**: Yeah.

**Costa**: You sure?

**Caylee:** Yeah.

**Costa:** 100%?

**Caylee**: Yeah.

**Costa:** How are gardens connected to other gardens?

**Caylee:** Well... Oh, by bees, butterflies and other animals because pollinating animals... Because they can get some pollen from one garden and spread it over another garden.

**Costa**: And what's the name for how animals and insects and birds move from one place to another?

**Caylee:** Oh, corridor. A pollinator corridor.

[birds tweet and a crowd cheers]

**Costa**: Question number three. What are three animals that use the Gardening Buds pond?

**Caylee:** Okay. The first one that pops into my head is a frog. I don't know what they're called. The thing that go inside the ponds, the blue boatman. The blue boatmans and birds and some lizards.

**Costa:** That's four things. I also would've accepted dragonflies, butterflies, bees, native bees.

[birds tweet and crowd cheers]

**Caylee:** Whoa.

[costa laughs]

[music ends]

**Caylee:** Thank you so much for inviting me to HQ. It was so much fun.

**Costa:** Caylee, you're welcome here anytime.

**Caylee:** Oh, thanks. I can't wait to come back next time.

**Costa:** Next time is the big day, when we are going to use everything that we've learned to choose the plants for your garden.

**Caylee**: Really?

**Costa**: Yes.

**Caylee**: Yes, it's going to be so much fun. I can't wait. See you next time, Costa.

[upbeat theme music starts]

**Costa:** Can't wait. See you.

**Costa**: The Gardening Bud's challenge of the week for you listening at home is to get you grown up and go outside and wander around your neighborhood and see what critters you can see living in the gardens, in the streets and in the parks where you live.

[music ends]

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[bird sounds end]