

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE



Developing good habits at a young age is much easier than trying to change as we get older. Learning to reduce, reuse, and recycle can be fun for kids and foster good habits early in life that will in turn benefit our natural world.

Ask the children, “What is waste?” Explain to them that waste is anything that is discarded and no longer being used. Ask them how waste affects our lakes, forests, cities, animals and roadsides. (The children will have excellent ideas!) Last ask them how they think they can be less wasteful. Use the activities below to teach about the three “R’s” of recycling.

REDUCE: Initiate a discussion on what it means to “reduce.” Ask the children what items they use every-day and how they might use less of those items.

Food

Paper

Paper towels

Energy (Watching less TV, turning off the lights, not holding open the refrigerator door, etc...)



REUSE: Have the children bring a toy that is in good condition and that they don’t play with anymore to their next meeting. Then have a toy exchange. Tell the children this is a great way to reuse toys. You can also have the children collect all their toys that are in good condition ONLY, and donate them to a local shelter, doctor’s office, or business with play areas. (Clean and sanitize the toys before donating.)



RECYCLING: Organize an aluminum can drive. Have the children collect cans for a month. Tell the children the money they make on the cans will go to a special activity the whole group can enjoy. Have the children brainstorm ideas for the special activity. It could be a pizza party or a trip to the movies. Then initiate a discussion on other items that are recyclable. You will want to research the closest location to drop off the aluminum cans.

Or

Have the children choose a charity that the money will benefit. This is a great activity to do around the holidays. They may choose to adopt a local food bank, adopt a family during the holidays, or donate to Toys for Tots. You may have to research local charities ahead of time and then let the children choose which charity they would like to help. You will be teaching them about recycling and serving their community all at the same time.



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