

Preschool and Pre-K Activity - Recycle!



This activity works well with preschool to pre-k aged children. It includes a story time, a recycling comprehension activity and a craft.

#1 Story - Read a recycling themed story (suggestions below). Discuss the story with the children. They will have a lot to share!

- Michael Recycle by Ellie Bethel ISBN: 978-160010224-0
- Why Should I Recycle? by Jen Green ISBN: 0-7641-3155-9

#2 Recycling Comprehension - Explain that items that go in the trash can go to the landfill, and the items that go in the recycling bin will be made into something new.

Discuss the items allowed in our local recycling program. A fun way to do this is to have the children call out "Recycle!" or "Trash!" when you hold up different items.

- Place several items in front of the children. Include recyclable items like a plastic bottle, a can, a newspaper. And non-recyclable items like an apple, a broken crayon, and a crumpled tissue. Also, place a trash can and recycle bin within arms reach.
- Hold up one item at time. For each item ask, "Where does this item go?"
- Prompt them to say the answer out loud and put the item in the appropriate bin.

#3 Craft Activity Prepare items for the craft a day or two ahead of time.

Each child will need:

- a copy of "**Preschool Recycle Bin**" (downloadable and double-sided)
- a green crayon, and a glue stick.
- cutouts for a water bottle, soda bottle, take-out container, and aluminum can (downloadable)
- other items you can prepare include small squares of magazines, newspaper, cardboard, paper board, and envelopes. Make sure there is enough of each item for every child.

Give each child their recycle bin hand-out and a green crayon. Have them color their recycle bin (if they finish quickly they can turn it over and trace the words printed on the back). Explain to each child that they will get one sample of each item to recycle. Ask them to arrange the items on the paper before they glue them down. Let each child fill their recycle bin by gluing the items down with their glue stick.

