

Preschool Activity

Recycle!



This activity works well with preschool-age children. It includes a story time, a recycling comprehension activity and a craft.

First, 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

Next, discuss the items allowed in the local recycling program. A fun way to do this is to have the children call out "Yes!" or "No!" when you hold up different items.

- Put several items in an curbside bin.
- Pull out one item at time.
- For each item ask, "Can I recycle this in my green bin?"
- Prompt them to say the answer out loud.
- Because the children are very young, make sure the items are easy to guess. For non-recyclable items you may include fun things like teddy-bears, shoes, soccer balls, crayons etc.

Prepare items for the craft a day or two ahead of time. Each child will need a copy of "**Preschool Recycle Bin**" downloaded from the *Keep Henrico Beautiful* Web site (this download is meant to be double-sided). You can also download cutouts for a water bottle, soda bottle, and aluminum can.

Other items to prepare include small squares of different materials accepted in your local recycling program. For example, cut small squares of magazines, newspaper, cardboard, paper board, envelopes, and aluminum foil. Make sure there is enough of each item for every child.

Additional items you will need for each child include a green crayon and glue stick.

- 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.



The final step is to thank the children for recycling!