



Feels Like A Can*

Activity P.v

GRADE LEVELS: K - 3

OBJECTIVE:

The child will be able to 1) recognize items from home which can be recycled, 2) identify, by touch, recyclable and non-recyclable items, and 3) understand how to recycle at home.

METHOD:

The child plays games of placing a can, newspaper, or plastic bottle into the correct box and reaching into a pillow case filled with recyclable and non-recyclable items. The child also makes a puppet to role-play recycling at home.

BACKGROUND:

Trash is no longer considered just trash. It can now be sorted by type of material and used over and over again. When an item is saved from the trash and made into a new product, it has been recycled. For example, steel food cans may become part of a new can or a child's toy. Other items commonly recycled are newspaper, aluminum cans, glass, plastic, and cardboard.

People everywhere are recycling in their homes. Families are being asked by their trash haulers and community leaders to do their part and recycle. Many communities provide a plastic bin which is used to store the cans, newspapers, glass, and plastics.

To help save natural resources and land used to bury waste, people must change their habits to become less wasteful, using only what they need and reducing, reusing, and recycling.

MATERIALS:

- string
- newspapers
- plastic soft drink bottles
- full steel food cans
- full aluminum beverage cans
- four cardboard boxes
- pillow case
- five non-recyclable items
- scissors
- poster board
- crayons or colored markers
- glue
- materials for decorating puppets (yarn, buttons, fabric scraps).

Note: full food and beverage cans are recommended so there will be no rough edges; glass bottles are recyclable but are excluded from this activity for safety.

PROCEDURE:

Run, Rock, Recycle

1. Give each child a recyclable item: a can, newspaper, or plastic liter bottle.
2. Label the four cardboard boxes for steel cans, aluminum cans, newspaper, and plastic bottles by attaching the recycling signs provided.
3. Mark off the playing area by placing a piece of string at the START, then placing another piece of string at 10 feet, and another at 20 feet. Place the four cardboard boxes along the 20 foot string.
4. Start the game by having the children, one at a time and holding their recyclable items, begin at start and run to the first string, then rock (dance) to the second string and place their recyclable item into the correctly labeled box. While performing this activity, sing "The Recycle Song" (see following pages). Continue until everyone has recycled. Ask the children: Do you recycle these things at home? Do you recycle other things? If so, what?

Recyclable: Yes or No

1. Fill a pillow case with a can, newspaper, and plastic bottle and five non-recyclable items.
2. Ask each child, one at a time, to feel inside the pillow case and find one item that can be recycled and one item that cannot be recycled.
3. Have the child describe the item that can be recycled by giving its name and/or which family member would have used it.

Mini Recycler

1. Copy onto heavy paper and cut out a finger puppet (see following pages) for each child. Draw on the poster board the floor plan of a house with rooms big enough for a child's hand to fit inside. Inside each room, draw furniture and other items usually found there, or use pictures from magazines.
2. Have the children decorate their Mini Recycler finger puppets to look like them.
3. Ask each child, using his or her finger puppet, to pretend to live in the posterboard house by walking to a room and telling a story. Ask the child: What items can be recycled in this room? Where in the house would you take these items to store them until recycling day?

*Source: Nature's for ME, a preschool learning program distributed by the Steel Recycling Institute