

Recycling Race

Overview

A great introduction to recycling. This session explores the different items that can be recycled at home and involves the children in a hands-on 'sorting race' to work out which bin different things need to be placed in.

Curriculum links

Science - Working scientifically

- *Everyday materials* – sort and group waste items according to the material they're made from

Resources

- 2 x bins for sorting rubbish into (1 labelled 'recycling bin', 1 labelled 'other')
- A selection of clean rubbish/pictures of rubbish divided equally between 3 bags/boxes
 - include a wide variety of items that can be recycled at home plus some items that can't, e.g. crisp packet, plastic toy, carrier bag, t-shirt, banana skin (use a plastic banana or picture) etc.
 - each set of rubbish items/pictures should be labelled with different colour stickers



Introduction

What can we do with our rubbish when we don't need it anymore?

What do you think the best things to do would be?

- 1st Reduce (make less rubbish to start with)
- 2nd Reuse (use things again)
- 3rd Recycle (place items in recycling bins so they can be made into something new)
- 4th Disposal (in Norfolk items sent for disposal go to an 'energy from waste' plant where they're burned to produce electricity)

Where can you recycle?

- recycling bin at home
- bring banks at supermarkets, village halls etc. (including bottle banks, textiles banks, paper banks etc.)
- household recycling centres

What can you recycle at home? Show examples of the following:

- Paper (including wrapping paper - no glitter, must pass the 'scrunch' test - & envelopes)
- Cardboard (including greetings cards - no glitter)
- Plastic bottles & tubs (including pump and trigger sprays, rinsed out, lids on)
- Metal cans (including food, drink & metal aerosol cans)
- Glass bottles & jars (rinsed out, lids on)
- Juice cartons

Activity - Sorting Race

Room set-up:



- Set the 2 bins out at one end of the hall and ensure each has a label ('recycling', 'other')
- Divide the class into 3 teams and seat each team in a line, one child behind the other, at the other end of the hall, facing the bins
- Give each team one set of waste items/cards (each set marked with a different colour to distinguish one team's items from another team's) & ask the front person in each team to place the bag/box of cards on the floor to the side of them
- Explain that they will be sorting the waste items from their bags/boxes into the correct bin (i.e. all items that can be recycled at home into 'recycling' and any remaining items into 'other'). At the end the pupils will be asked for ideas about how they could reuse or reduce items in the 'other' bin

- The front person in each team should take **one** item from their bag/box, leave the bag/box on the floor, and then walk quickly (no running to avoid accidents) and place it in the correct bin. They should then return to their team, tag the next person and then join the back of their team
- Once the next person has been tagged, they can then take a piece of waste and place it in the correct bin
- Continue this process until the bag/box is empty
- Award 3 points to the first team to finish, 2 points to the second and 1 point to the third. Starting with the 'recycling bin', go through the contents and award 1 point for each item in the correct bin
- For items in the 'other' bin, teams must give an idea about how it could be reduced or reused to earn a point (see below for ideas)

Extension ideas

Additional bins labelled 'charity shop' & 'compost' could be added to encourage the children to complete a more varied sort.

Ideas for reducing & reusing waste items

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clothing • Toys • DVDs/CD-ROMs 	→	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charity shop • Car boot/jumble sale • Give to friend/relative • Textiles bank (clothes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fruit/veg waste 	→	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compost bin • Food waste collection (if available) • Feed to rabbit (or similar)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrier bags • Fruit bags 	→	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reuse carrier bags • Reduce – reusable shopping bags, choose fruit without packaging
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisp packet • Foil/plastic drink pouch 	→	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce – look for alternatives in recyclable packaging (plastic bottle instead of pouches) or buy bigger pack and put a small amount in reusable container

