

Learning Center Ideas - Going Green

- Have students find pictures from magazines and newspapers that are related to the concepts of reduce, reuse, and recycle and glue them onto construction paper to make posters.
- Have students participate in a simple writing activity about one of the three concepts of reduce, reuse, recycle and illustrate a page for a book. Gather the students' work and create a class book.
- Teach children that recycling is easy and that it can have a positive impact on our environment. Teach them about what can be recycled and how to do it.

Post the following chart in your classroom and review it with children. Then create a similar chart with only the headings and blank columns and make copies for students. Provide newspapers and magazines, and have students find images of things that can be recycled. Invite them to cut out the pictures and glue them in the correct place on the chart.

Material	Can be recycled	Can't be recycled	How to do it
Glass	Jars, bottles (clear, green, amber)	Lightbulbs, dishes, Pyrex, crystal	Rinse, remove lids. Separate by color
Paper	Newspapers, boxes, egg cartons, phone books, white office paper	Waxed-, glued-, plastic-, or foil-coated paper	Keep clean and dry
Aluminum	All aluminum—cans, pie pans, foil wrap, old windows, lawn furniture		Rinse and crush
Steel	Steel (tin) food cans		Rinse
Plastics	Most plastics	Check with your recycler	Rinse

- Have groups of children make posters that either show ways to help protect the earth or some things that can be harmful to the earth. Invite students to choose pictures from magazines such as recyclable objects, discarded litter, or examples of pollution. As a springboard for a class discussion, have students share their group posters.
- Teach students that the Environmental Protection Agency and state environmental agencies measure pollution in the air. The Air Quality Index uses colors to let people know if the air quality is good or bad.

Green—Good
Yellow—Moderate
Orange—Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
Red—Unhealthy
Purple—Very Unhealthy
Maroon—Hazardous

When there is a lot of dirt or chemicals in the air, the air is polluted and unhealthy to breathe. This often occurs on hot days when the air is still. Dirty air can make people, especially those with asthma, feel ill or begin to cough. It's best to restrict outdoor activity or do less strenuous outdoor activities when the Air Quality Index is orange.

Stress to children that “going green” can improve the air quality in an environment. Have students use air quality forecasts for your area to make a classroom Air Quality Index. Use this as a springboard to discuss why it is important for everyone to do his or her part in protecting the environment.