

Introduction to Waste and Recycling

Objective: Children will understand the concepts of waste, recycling, and the importance of reducing waste to help the environment.

Materials:

- Three bins (labeled “Recycle,” “Compost,” and “Trash”)
- Various items (cardboard, plastic bottle, banana peel, paper, aluminum can, etc.)
- Large Earth beach ball (in Primary Science Kit at DRL)

Steps:

1. **Discussion:** Begin by asking children where things go when we’re done with them. Explain the concepts of trash, recycling, and composting.
2. **Activity:** Show the children a collection of items (or use images of them) and ask them to sort the items into the appropriate bins: “Recycle,” “Compost,” and “Trash.”
3. **Group Reflection:** After sorting, discuss why certain items go in the recycling bin (materials that can be reused) and others in the compost bin (organic waste that can decompose), and why some things go in the trash.
4. **Zero Waste Talk:** Discuss how we can reduce waste by reusing things, avoiding single-use plastics, and taking care of our Earth.
5. **Closure- Reflections:** Have children stand in a circle. Each child shares a way that they can help reduce waste in their homes. They toss the Earth ball to the next person to share out.
6. Supporting video for lunch time viewing: [Recycling for Kids](#) | [Recycling Plastic, Glass and Paper](#) | [Recycle Symbol](#) | [Kids Academy](#)