



Lesson Plan: Recycle, Kindergarten

Activity

Sort it out.

Introduction

Classroom and household waste is made up of the materials that we no longer need or want. This includes garbage, food scraps, and recyclables like food containers, paper, and cardboard. The best way to manage our waste is to not create it in the first place. When we do have waste, we should do our best to avoid placing this material into the garbage whenever possible. We can do this by using programs like the Green Bin (compost) or the Blue Box (recycling bin) program. In this lesson, students will learn about the Blue Box (recycling) program and practice sorting recyclable material to keep this material out of the garbage.

Curriculum Connections

Kindergarten Program, 2016

Overall expectations

- 28. demonstrate an awareness of their surroundings
- 29. demonstrate an understanding of the natural world and the need to care for and respect the environment

Learning Objectives

1. Explain recycling and why it is important
2. Explain the use of the two separate blue boxes
3. Recognize the recycling symbol
4. Identify which material belongs in the Blue Box program

Resources Provided (located in the resource file)

- Waste Management Hierarchy
- Worksheet: Sort it out – Recyclables in the blue box

Activity Instructions

1. Introduce the term recycling.

Recycling means taking something that is ready to be thrown away and changing it into something new. An example of recycling is taking used plastic drink bottles and recycling them to make new items like shirts, pants, jackets, pencil cases, and chairs!

2. Ask the class why they think it is important to recycle.

Recycling keeps items out of the garbage and allows us to use these items to make something new. Recycling saves energy and helps keep the environment clean and healthy.

3. Show the class a blue box and explain what it is used for. Explore the blue box and make observations. Are there any markings on the blue box?

The blue box is where we put our recyclable items to be collected. We use the blue box to sort our materials and to keep the materials separate from our garbage. Blue boxes are often stamped with the recycling symbol and a note about what belongs in each box.

4. Explain that in Durham Region (where we live), we use two blue boxes to sort our recyclables. We have one blue box for our containers and one for our paper and cardboard.
5. Explain the use of the container blue box.

The **container blue box** is where most metal, plastic, glass and food/beverage containers go. This includes items like pop cans, yogurt containers, milk cartons, juice boxes (without a straw), glass jars and bottles.

6. Explain the use of the paper and cardboard blue box.

The **paper and cardboard blue box** is where paper and cardboard items go. This includes items like newspaper, cardboard, magazines, used paper, and cereal boxes.

Special note: Dirty paper and cardboard items (like used paper plates or greasy pizza boxes) do not go in the blue box. These items can go into the green bin!

7. Ask students what might happen if we put containers that still have food or drinks left in them into the blue box.

Containers that still have food and liquid (like juice or water) inside them can spill and be messy. They can attract animals, bugs, and insects. Containers with food and liquids can also be confusing for the machines that are used after our blue box materials are picked up from our homes and schools. When containers are not empty, they can end up as garbage instead of being recycled into something new. We should empty and rinse containers before putting them into the blue box.

8. Ask students if they've ever seen a garbage or recycling truck pass through their neighborhood. What did the truck look like? Where do they take the waste?

Once a week your recycling bin is picked up from your home and dumped into a large truck. The trucks take the recycling to a large building where it is sorted then sold to be turned into something new.

9. Emphasize that recycling reduces the amount of garbage that we create. It is one way for us to show that we care for the environment.
10. Have students complete the worksheet attached to practice sorting blue box material.

Extension Activity

1. Lay tarp or a small sheet flat on the floor.
2. Dump out the classroom recycling bins onto the tarp.
3. Mix up the recyclables.
4. Have students gather around the tarp.
5. As a class, practice separating recyclable.
6. Students will work together to place each piece of recycling into the correct bin.
7. Following the sort, review items that were placed into each bin and correct any misplaced items.

Summary

While we should do our best to create as little waste as possible, recycling helps take care of some materials to keep them out of the garbage. It takes all our helping hands to make sure our waste is sorted and put into the right place. This helps to keep the planet clean and healthy.

Expanded Curriculum Connections

The Kindergarten Program, 2016

28. demonstrate an awareness of their surroundings

- 28.1 recognize people in their community and talk about what they do

29. demonstrate an understanding of the natural world and the need to care for and respect the environment

- 29.2 describe what would happen if something in the local environment changed
- 29.3 identify ways in which they can care for and show respect for the environment
- 29.4 participate in environmentally friendly experiences in the classroom and the schoolyard