



Lesson Plan: Reuse, Kindergarten

Activity

Repurposing blue box material.

Introduction

We use a lot of different items every day. Many of these items create waste that needs to be taken care of to protect the environment and our health. This waste includes blue box recyclables, green bin compostable material, and garbage. As our community continues to grow, more waste is being created. In this lesson, students will learn about how reuse can be applied to reduce the amount of new items they purchase and use, and to reduce the amount of waste they create. Students will then put reuse into action by using their creativity to repurpose a blue box item into something new.

Curriculum Connections

The Kindergarten Program, 2016

Overall Expectations

- 13. use the processes and skills of an inquiry stance (i.e., questioning, planning, predicting, observing, and communicating)
- 29. Demonstrate an understanding of the natural world and the need to care for and respect the environment

Learning Objectives

1. Understand the term reuse and waste
2. Identify common garbage, recyclable, and compostable items
3. Create something new by repurpose blue box items

Resources Provided

- Module: Reuse

Materials Required

- Enough clean blue box materials (such as tubs and lids, plastic bottles, and cardboard boxes) for each student to have at least one item
- Scissors
- Printer paper or construction paper. This is a great opportunity to reuse paper from the blue box if possible!
- Markers
- Paint
- Paint brushes
- Glue

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Activity Instructions

Prior to activity

1. Have each student bring in a clean blue box item from home such as a clean plastic drink bottle, an empty tissue box, a cardboard toilet paper roll, or a clean yogurt container. Students will use their creative to make these items to create something new.

Day of activity

1. Introduce students to household and classroom waste.

Each one of us creates waste in our homes and classrooms. Waste is made up of things that we no longer need or want. This includes garbage, recyclables, and compostable material.

Garbage includes items like plastic straws, chip bags, granola bar wrappers, plastic bags, candy wrappers, and single-use plastic utensils. Garbage belongs in the garbage bag.

Recyclable materials include items like juice boxes (without the straws), paper scraps, construction paper, single-serve plastic yogurt containers, and single-use plastic drink bottles. Recyclable materials belong in the blue box.

Compostable materials include food scraps like banana peels, apple cores, orange peels, and watermelon rinds, and dirty paper and cardboard items like paper towels, tissues, and greasy pizza boxes. Compostable materials belong in the green bin or backyard composter.

2. Ask the class to raise their hands if they have thrown something away today. What was it? Did they put it in the garbage, blue box, or green bin?
3. Ask the class if they know what happens to their waste once they place it outside for collection. Have they ever watched a truck come and pick it up? What did the truck look like?

Our waste doesn't just disappear once we throw it away. We set our waste out outside of our homes on collection days and workers come in big trucks to collect it. After that, each type of waste is taken to a different place (with different ways to take care of the waste) to make sure we are protecting the environment and health of all the people living in our community. Taking care of our waste takes a lot of work and money. It is important that we do our part to create as little waste as possible!

4. Introduce the third "R" – Reuse to decrease the amount of waste we create.

Reuse means using an item as many times as possible, either for its original purpose or for a different use. When we reuse items, we don't need to buy as many new things and we create less waste. This helps to keep our environment clean and healthy.

5. Show the class a common item that could be found in the blue box (like a single-use water bottle, a single-serve yogurt cup, a margarine container, or a cardboard shoebox) and ask students to brainstorm and share how they could reuse this item.
6. Provide time for students to think about a new way they could use their chosen blue box item. Can their empty tissue box become a new piggybank? Can their empty soup tin become a toy robot? Students are encouraged to get creative!

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7. Have each student share their ideas with the class.

Summary

Next time you are about to throw something out, consider if the item can be reused instead! When we reuse items, we don't need to buy as many new things and we create less waste. This helps to keep our environment clean and healthy. Reuse items as many times as possible, either for their original purpose or a different use, or give the item to someone else who might be able to use it. Get create and have fun!

Expanded Curriculum Connections

The Kindergarten Program, 2016 (revised)

13. use the processes and skills of an inquiry stance (i.e., questioning, planning, predicting, observing, and communicating)

- 13.1 state problems and pose questions in different contexts and for different reasons (e.g., before, during, and after inquiries)
- 13.2 make predictions and observations before and during investigations
- 13.3 select and use materials to carry out their own explorations
- 13.4 communicate results and findings from individual and group investigations (e.g., explain and/or show how they made their structure; state simple conclusions from an experiment; record ideas using pictures, numbers, and labels)

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

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