



REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

INTRODUCTION

There are so many games and activities you can do to help younger learners understand how to re-use and recycle common household items.

Anything you can stop reaching the landfill is a small step towards a more sustainable future.

GRADE R-3



EDUCATOR HINT:

These activities require a basic concept of what items are recyclable and what items will be sent to the landfill. Visit <https://www.wm.com/us/en/recycle-right/recycling-101> to see a list of materials that can be recycled.

GAMES

PLASTIC BOTTLE BOWLING

There are always plastic bottles lying around the school yard. Why not collect as many as you can and turn them into an awesome bowling game?



Materials:

- **Plastic bottles**
- **Any stationary to decorate the bowls (go wild and get creative)**
- **Sand or water**
- **A ball (you can even make your own out of plastic bags -<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dt7c44UI9mc>)**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Clean the bottles (you don't want sticky pins).
2. Fill the bottles half full of sand or water (this provides stability)
3. Decorate to your heart's content
4. Set the bottles up like bowling pins and take turns seeing who can knock down the most bottles.

Visit the following links for some ideas:

- <https://www.pbs.org/parents/crafts-and-experiments/go-bowling-with-plastic-bottles>
- <https://kidspot.co.nz/activities/make-a-homemade-bowling-alley/>

RECYCLE ME**Materials:**

- **Empty boxes or containers labelled plastic, paper, glass, tins, landfill, compost**
- **Open area to play in**

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Place the signs in different corners of your chosen play area.
2. The educator should call out names of items that need to be recycled or thrown in rubbish e.g., coke bottle, banana peel, clingwrap
3. The children should race to the correct sign.

**EDUCATOR HINT:**

The rules of this game can easily be adapted depending on your class context. For example you could say anyone not standing at the correct sign is "out" and play until there is a winner or you could include a countdown timer - it is up to you.



Extension: The game can also be repeated as a recycling sorting activity where children choose relevant items from a pile of recyclables (leave the landfill and compost items out of this version) and race to place the items in the correct containers.

MILK BOTTLE CATCH



Materials:

- **Empty milk bottles**
- **Light ball**
- **Any stationary or craft items to decorate with (paint, stickers, coloured tape, khoki pens etc.)**



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Clean your milk bottle.
2. Using scissors cut off the bottom of the milk bottle.
3. Decorate your milk bottle (get creative!)
4. Toss the ball to each other and catch it in the jug.

Follow this link for more fun ways to play:

- <https://childhood101.com/diy-milk-jug-catcher-game/>

RECYCLING RELAY



Materials:

- **Boxes labelled landfill and recycling**
- **A selection of CLEAN rubbish items, half recyclable, half non-recyclable**

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Divide the learners into groups of 3-4 individuals.
2. Place the box of rubbish at the front of the class room.
3. Place the boxes labelled landfill and recycling at the front of the classroom.
4. A learner from each group must run to the front and choose a rubbish item. They need to decide which box it needs to be placed in and put it in that box.
5. They can then return to their group and the next learner can have a turn.
6. The winning group is the group in which all learners correctly placed an item in the correct box.
7. Review all the items in the class and discuss why items are recyclable.



Extension: Add a re-use box and the learners can get an extra point if they can come up with a creative idea to re-use the item.

CRAFTS

RECYCLED CAN WIND CHIMES



Materials:

- **Tin, cans**
- **String**
- **Hammer and nails**
- **Any stationary to decorate the tins/can – glitter, paint, beads, ribbon**



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Clean the tins and cans.
2. Paint and decorate the tins and cans
3. Make a hole in the lid of the cans.
4. Tie and string to the can/tins and then tie them in a group and listen to the music made by the wind (cans should be placed in together in a group for the best effect).

Follow this link for more amazing ideas for re-using tins and cans:

- <https://www.diyncrafts.com/17424/repurpose/50-jaw-dropping-ideas-for-upcycling-tin-cans-into-beautiful-household-items>

TOILET ROLL BIRD FEEDER



Materials:

- **Empty toilet roll**
- **Peanut butter**
- **Bird seed**
- **String**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Rub peanut butter around the toilet roll.
2. Roll the peanut butter covered toilet roll in bird seed.
3. Pass the string through the inside of the roll and hang it up in your school garden for the birds to enjoy.

<https://www.firefliesandmudpies.com/toilet-paper-roll-bird-feeder/>

For more recycling crafts have a look on Pinterest or google “recycling crafts for kids” – there are hundreds of ideas out there!

**REFERENCES**

<https://kinderkindkids.com/blogs/news/10-interesting-recycling-games-for-kids>

https://www.momjunction.com/articles/recycling-activities-and-games-for-kids_00397175/