

Classroom Recycle Center

Create a recycling center for your classroom.

To do this, gather the necessary supplies and invite the children to help make some signs for your recycling bins. Preschoolers can help make signs for the recycling bins by placing alphabet stickers on construction paper. Include signs for paper, plastic, cans, and glass.

Tape the signs on the boxes and set up a recycling center near the wastebasket.



When the recycling center is all set up, invite children to help sort the recyclables into the bins. As they do this, talk about what is and is not recyclable and what happens to recyclables when they are taken by the recycling truck.

This is also a great opportunity to discuss other ways we can care for the environment by reducing what we use, reusing what we can, and recycling!

You may want to invite preschoolers to bring in some recyclable items from home. They can add their items to the recycling center in the classroom.



Make Your Own Recycled Robot

Let younger kids enjoy building a robot from everyday household items. It's lots of fun and is sure to keep their attention. Begin the creative process by going on a little scavenger hunt around the house or schoolroom for robot-making-materials.

Materials:

Recycled boxes from various household items
 Colored construction paper
 Colored foam sheets
 Soft drink lids
 Old boxes
 Tin foil
 ice cream containers
 Old clothing, various material
 Straws, paper and crayons
 Adhesive tape
 Scissors
 Glue



Procedure:

The children can glue or tape boxes together to form the general shape of a robot before attaching other items to complete the project. There is room for a wide variety of ideas on this project so if you have an idea that you think will work then give it a go!

Tips:

If you want your robot to stand, consider the size of your boxes and how they will balance in a vertical position before gluing pieces together



Crayon Bits Become a Rainbow

What do you do with those broken bits of crayon? Create 'multi-colored crayon discs' that will raise drawing and coloring to a whole new level!

Materials

Muffin tray
Aluminum foil liners
Broken crayons (with the paper wrappers removed)

Procedure

Line a muffin tin with aluminum foil liners.
Place broken crayons in the muffin tin
Place in the oven to melt (200-250 degrees).



When the crayons have melted remove from the oven and let cool.

Let students have a joyous time coloring with their recycled, multi-colored crayons.



Milk Jug Toss

A yarn pom-pom is attached to a milk jug with yarn or string. Then the pom-pom is tossed up and caught in the jug. Simple fun!

Materials:

- gallon milk jug
- yarn
- yarn pom-pom
- scissors
- colorful duct tape – optional



Procedure:

- Cut the bottom off of the jug
- Cover it with tape if you like. It gives it a bit of support and is pretty.
- Make a yarn pom-pom
- Run yarn or string through the top to the bottom and tie, leaving a length of yarn to create ‘the toss.’



The length of yarn you use depends upon how tall your child is. You swing the pom-pom up and catch it in the milk jug. Use your imagination a bit and you will get the gist of it.

If you need directions for making a yarn pom pom you can [check out this YouTube tutorial](#).



Families love this activity. It gets kids moving. They love playing ball in the house in the winter. Parents & teachers love it because the ball is tethered and not flying through a room.

Here is a wiffle ball version:



Homemade Wind Chimes

There's a lot you can do with stuff from your recycling bin, such as homemade, upcycled wind chimes that the kids can make!

Materials:

Tin cans (Tape around the rims of the cans to prevent any cuts)
Green basting paintbrush
Washable tempera paint
Glitter
Hammer
Long piece of yarn
Washers

Procedure:

Using the green basting paintbrush, paint the outside of the tin cans with washable tempera paint. Shake a lot of glitter on the tin cans while the paint is still wet. After the paint dries, punch holes in the bottom of the tin cans.

String a long piece of yarn through the holes and tied two washers onto the end of the string, inside the tin cans. One washer is used to hold the yarn in place, the other is placed at the end of the string to make a lovely clanking sound when it hits the tin can. (Different size washers make different noises. Different size tin cans make different noises, too!)

Test out the noise it makes.

Hang up the tin cans so that they overlap each other.



Let the wind do its thing and enjoy the wonderful clanking of your homemade wind chimes!



Meet the Actor - Matt Mazzella

Where were you born?

I was born on the island of Oahu. In a hospital!

Where did you go to school?

I went to Kaneohe Elementary School.

Who was your best friend?

My best friend's name was Mike Takebayashi. We had Math and Language Arts together and read Captain Underpants. We hung together at recess and told jokes to each other.

What were your favorite stories as a kid?

I liked reading fantasy series like Harry Potter, A Series of Unfortunate Events, and Pendragon. I loved all kinds of movies from action blockbusters to epic space operas. From a young age, when I saw or read something I liked, I wanted to know why I liked it. I got into filmmaking and creative writing as a kid and spent time trying to emulate my favorite creators, including stand-up comedians!



When did you start acting?

I started acting onstage the summer after sixth grade where I played the Baby Elephant in the Jungle Book Kids.

Why do you like theatre?

I have so many reasons why I like theatre, but I'll say I like transporting audiences to new places and allowing people to forget their lives for an hour while they share a meaningful experience together. Theatre is extra special because it's always more personal than watching a movie, or viewing a piece of visual art—the actors are right there making eye contact and living and breathing scenes right in front of you!



What's the most challenging part of acting in Trash & Treasure?

The most challenging part of Trash and Treasure has been trying to deconstruct the process of recycling to find an interesting story to tell in that world.

Why is Trash & Treasure an important story to tell?

When you get a thing from someone, or from the store, it has a whole life with you before it (or it's wrapper) gets thrown away: A new toy travels across the world from a factory all the way to a store, then to your house before you take the packaging off and throw it in the trash. But after you throw that away, it lives a whole other life in transit, where it gets shipped around and used before eventually being made into something else. Your rubbish can is like an international airport for stuff!

Help the Earth

Copy the chart below for students. Copy and cut out the cards on the second page. Distribute both to your students. Selecting one card at a time, ask students to decide if the object on the card is HELPFUL to the Earth or HURTFUL. Guide students to place the cards in the appropriate box on the chart.

 Helpful	Hurtful 

sports car



bike



reusable



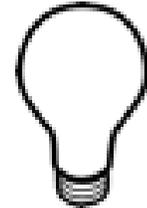
plastic bag



cfl light bulb



incandescent



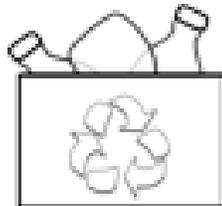
open



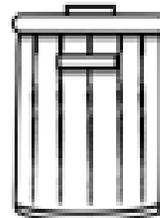
closed



recycle



trash



off

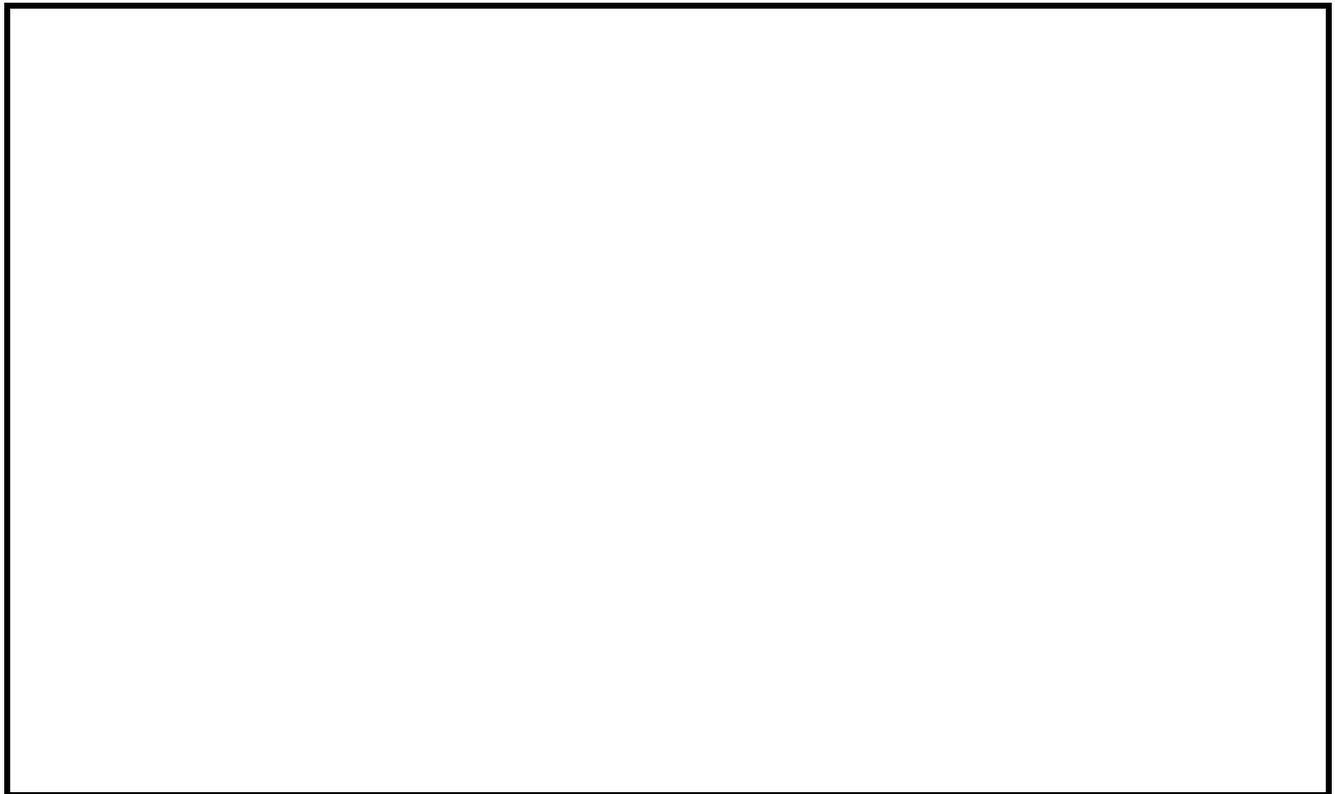
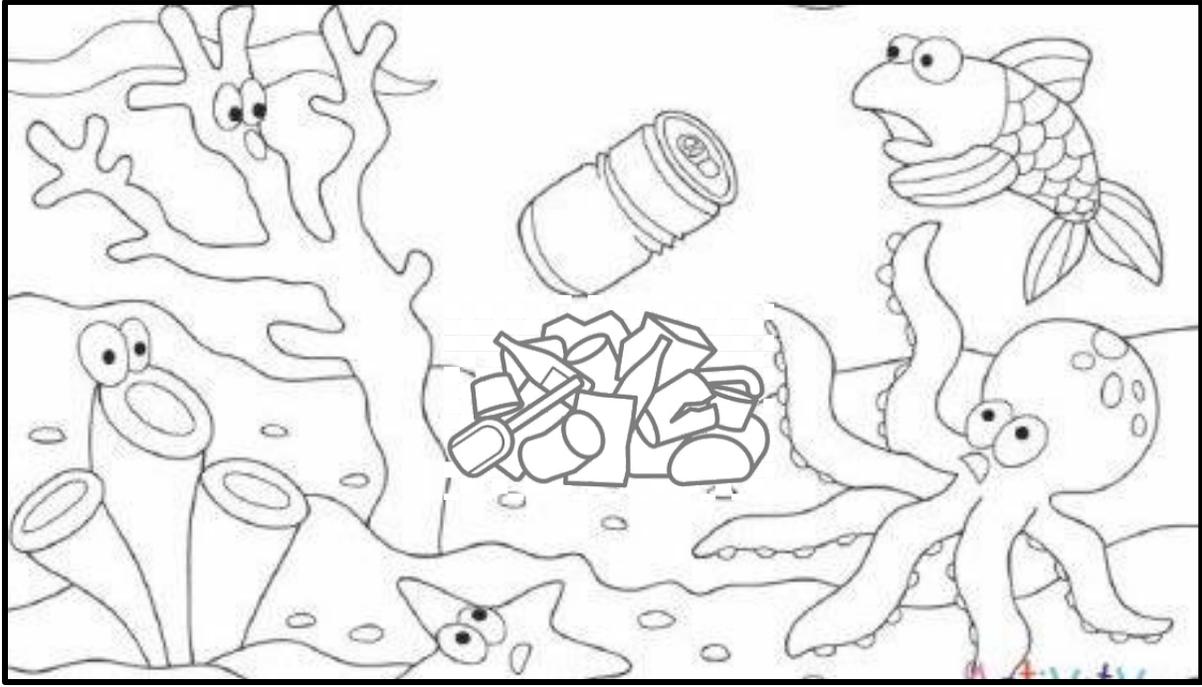


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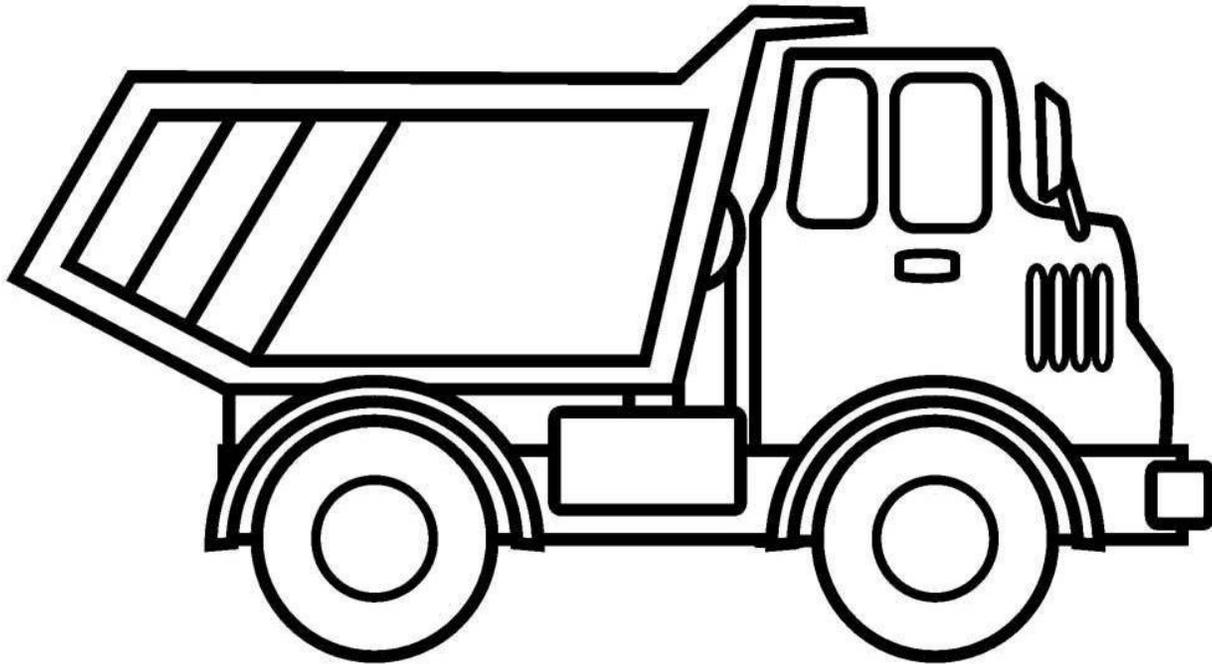
Clean Up!

The ocean is filling with trash! Ask students to draw a new picture that makes the creatures happy.



A Trash Truck Visit

Guide students to draw a visit by a trash truck. Ask them to add the garbage cans, the trash, the workers or anything else they might imagine!



What is Recycling? A Discussion

Students will learn about items that can be recycled.

INTRODUCTION: Boys and girls, today we are going to learn about trash. I am going to tell you all about the journey a piece of trash takes from your house to a great big place called a landfill. I'm also going to share with you how we can save some pieces of trash from going to the landfill. Listen carefully, the adventure is going to begin.

1. Raise your hand if you know what trash is (or ask "what is trash?")
2. When you find something that is trash, what do you do with it? Where do we put trash? In the trash can/we throw it away.
3. Who can name one thing you throw away in the trash?
4. When the trash is full, what do we do with the full bag of trash? The bag of trash is taken outside and placed either in a trash can or a dumpster. A dumpster (*Show picture*) is a large trash can you can find outside child care centers, restaurants, grocery stores, etc.
5. Do you know what happens to the trash once you take it outside? A large truck comes by and picks up your trash. It is called a trash truck. (*Show picture.*)
6. Where does the trash truck take our trash? A landfill. (*Show picture*) When the landfill becomes full with trash it is then closed and we will have to find a new place for all of our trash to go.
7. Sometimes we throw things away in the trash can that can be used again. They can be recycled. Recycling means taking something you were going to throw in the trash, such as a piece of paper, and turning it into something new and useful like a new book. You find a new way to use that item.
8. Four things we can recycle are: paper, glass, metal and plastic.
9. Lastly, do you know why we recycle? We recycle because it helps our earth. Recycling helps save natural resources, like trees. Remember, recycling is when we take something no longer being used and turn it into something new and useful. Some items can be recycled again and again. Two examples are glass and aluminum.

Activity Extension

You will need four brown paper bags, the size you get from the grocery store work well. On each bag you will write one of the following words: Plastic, Paper, Glass, or Metal. Each bag will represent one type of recyclable you talked about during circle time.

After you have completed Activity #1, ask the students to help you sort the items from the blue recycle bin. Tell the students that they are going to help you sort the items from the blue recycle bin into one of the four brown paper bags. Show them the four bags and demonstrate by pulling out a recycled item from the blue recycle bin. For example, if you pull out a newspaper show them that it goes in the brown paper bag labeled "Paper." From there let each student have a turn picking one item out of the blue recycle bin and placing it in the corresponding brown paper bag.