

Alphabet Recycling Ideas

Link **letters and sounds** with learning about the world with this a-z of easy eco-literacy activities. Tons of fun without the carbon footprint!

RECYCLE

Annie Apple's Pips to Grow



Talking about how things grow promotes early awareness of the natural world. Using apple pips and pictures of trees, talk about how a tiny seed grows into a big tree to give us many more apples. Try planting apple pips in recycled egg cartons to see what happens.

Bouncy Ben's Air-filled Balloons



Blow up a big, blue balloon and talk about it getting bigger and bigger. This can lead on to looking at other words beginning with the 'b' sound, but it also demonstrates cause and effect. This is essential if children are to make the link between our planet and how we live.

Clever Cat's Caterpillar Stories



Bring in some caterpillars (and leaves) in a suitable container. Talk about their colours and movements and explain how they grow into butterflies and moths. A perfect activity to help children express their thoughts and feelings as well as find out more about living things.

Dippy Duck's Ducks



Talk about ducks and how they hatch from eggs like chickens. Tell the children that little ducklings are covered with down (very soft, fluffy feathers that stay dry even in the water) and know how to swim right away.

Eddy Elephant's Egg Heads



Help the children make egg heads to demonstrate how things can be recycled to create something attractive and fun. Fill clean, empty eggshells with cotton wool. Using a felt pen, let the children draw faces on the shells and then place them in egg cups. Dampen the cotton wool for them to sprinkle on cress seed and then watch the 'hair' grow!

Firefighter Fred's Favourite Foods



Talk about Firefighter Fred's favourite food (fresh fruit) and the children's favourite foods, and organise a 'packed lunch packaging week'. Reuse or recycle the packaging at the end of the week.

REUSE

Golden Girl's Gorgeous Garden Picture



Help the children create a 'gorgeous garden' picture by filling a large piece of paper from edge to edge with drawings of flowers, leaves and trees. Add pictures of flowers cut from magazines or seed catalogues and you'll have a colourful reminder of the living world on the classroom wall.

Harry Hat Man's Horrible Noises



Ask if any child hates noise and if they know anyone else who hates noise, perhaps their parents or a teacher? Do they think they are sometimes too noisy? Stress consideration for other people as a first introduction to learning about noise pollution.

Impy Ink's Insect Pictures



Collect pictures of insects. Help the children to make insect pictures too, using different coloured blobs and adding wings and six legs. How many insects can the children name? Why are insects important to us?

Jumping Jim's Junk Box



Label a 'Junk Box' and encourage everyone to collect oddments to add to it. Use it for junk modelling and create some wonderful sculptures, as well as to promote recycling awareness.

Kicking King's Kicking Ball Game



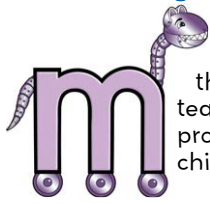
Show the children how to use old newspapers or plastic bags to make balls to play games with. You could take turns trying to kick the balls into a tray or wide box. See how many balls are in the box and practise counting 1,2,3,4....

Lucy Lamp Light's Leaf Display



Make a collection of leaves. Talk about their different colours and shapes and compare the fronts and backs. Use them to make a leaf collage around a tree made from recycled newspaper painted brown.

Munching Mike's Monster Model



Help the children to make a model of a metal monster with foil lids, tin foil and bottle tops that the children have collected. This not only teaches building and construction skills but also promotes eco-literacy by encouraging children to think about machines and recycling.

Noisy Nick and How Nuts Grow



Provide nuts of different kinds, including conkers and acorns, if available (but avoiding peanuts) and compare their different sizes and shapes. Compare tree seeds with flower seeds and talk about how one nut can become a big tree that produces lots of other nuts.

Oscar Orange's Oranges



Bring in a few oranges to talk about. Ask the children if they know where they come from and what the weather is like where they grow, what they grow on, what colour they are and why they have pips inside. Ask if any children like oranges or orange juice and remind them to bring in juice cartons to add to the Junk Box for model-making.

Peter Puppy's People Pictures



Ask the children to draw pictures of people. Encourage them to look for details, and not to forget features like nose, eyes, hands and feet. Tell them that the world is full of all sorts of people, and that we all live on the same planet, and need to protect it for all of us.

Quarrelsome Queen's Quilt Collage



Make a quilt in class from fabric scraps the children have provided. Cut out colourful squares and then stick them together using fabric glue or PVA. This activity helps children to use their imagination in art and design while creating something new from something old.

Red Robot's Rainbow Pictures



Talk about the colours of the rainbow and ask children to paint one. Encourage them to explore the colours and shapes of rainbows and talk about what causes them.

Sammy Snake's Sunny Day



In the spring and summer terms talk about how the sun helps to keep us warm and makes the flowers grow and open.

Talking Tess's Telescopes



Make telescopes with the cardboard tubes from tin foil or kitchen roll. Let the children paint them, or cover them with coloured paper. Fix coloured cellophane over one end with elastic bands, and then see how the world changes. Great for encouraging questions about why things happen!

Uppy Umbrella's Rainy Day



Pick a rainy week and ask children to bring their umbrellas to school. Talk about why we use umbrellas and what happens when things get wet. Encourage children to discover the natural world by taking them for a walk in the rain. Why do umbrellas go up when the rain comes down?

Vicky Violet's Vegetable Soup



Ask each child to bring in some vegetables. Let the children watch while you chop them up to make vegetable soup. Encourage them to taste and identify various raw vegetables. Serve the same day, as a way of encouraging the children to talk about living things and healthy eating.

Walter Walrus's Winter Pictures



The children can stick white paper hills and cotton wool snowmen onto coloured paper to make winter scenes. Add a window frame to the pictures using black paper or black tape. Talk about what happens in winter and what the like or don't like about it.

Fix-it Max's Taxi Trips



Talk about taxis and how or where you might find one. Explain that people might use a taxi if they don't have a car, or do not live near public transport. Ask if anyone has ridden in a taxi. Then try making up a class story about a taxi ride and what the children might see out of the window on the way from A to B. What would happen if no-one had his or her own car to use and there were no taxis and no public transport?

Yellow Yo-yo Man's Year



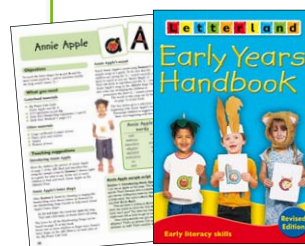
Tell the children that there are 365 days in a year. Ask them individually how many year's old they and their brothers and sisters or pets are. Tell them that there are four seasons in a year and explain what they are. Use this discussion to talk about cycles and changing weather patterns.

Zig-Zag Zebra's Classroom Zoo



Ask the children to bring in small toy animals and include pictures of rare zoo animals if possible. Sort them into zoo animals, farm animals and perhaps also indoor and outdoor pets. Talk about wild life parks (open zoos) and the importance of protecting endangered species.

Letterland Early Years Handbook



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