

FIRST GRADE

3 Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

CHECKLIST:

Recycling bin with example items
Teacher Bags containing: Letter to parents

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Introduce yourself: I am _____. The Darien Environmental Group asked me to come here today. Who remembers getting those cool sandwich-wraps from the DEG in Kindergarten? Well, this year we're going to talk to you about reduce, reuse and recycle

TRASH

Does anyone know what happens to our trash? Take a few answers (some goes to be burned in **incinerator** or buried in a **landfill**).

(Show them the pictures of the **incinerator** and **landfill** and have them pass them around so they get a close look.)

Neither of these is good for the environment so we want to keep out as much as we can from the trash. Reducing, Reusing and Recycling is the way to do that.

PRECYCLING

Another word for reducing and reusing is Precycling: - Remember when you went to **pre**-school? **Precycling** has the word **pre** in it, too and **pre** means **before**. So precycling is what we do before we recycle.

REDUCE

In order to reduce the amount of trash we make, the first thing we need to do is to buy smarter: Large sized items have fewer layers of packaging, for example:

- 1) Large bag of Doritos is better than individual bags.
- 2) Large container of apple sauce is better than individual containers.

You can always bring a reusable container from home to bring small amounts of Doritos, apple sauce, etc.

You can also limit the number of purchases that you make in the first place. Ask yourself. Do I really need another plastic toy? Another t-shirt?

Buy items that are reusable instead of disposable, i.e.:

- 1) Cloth grocery bags
- 2) Rechargeable batteries
- 3) Water containers,
- 4) Pens that have refills.

Buy items made from recycled paper (Closing the Recycling Loop) such as school supplies or paper towels and tissues.

Buy items in metal or glass instead of plastic. Metal and glass can be used over and over again and recycling them uses less energy than making those same containers from new materials. Not the case for plastic. Plastic food containers are rarely made into a food container again and takes more energy to recycle than from new material which is oil, nonrenewable.

REUSE

Ask the kids.

What is reuse? **Reuse** is to use an item **again** after it has been used.

Here are some ideas:

- 1) Reuse unwanted items like toys and clothing by giving them away instead of throwing them away.
- 2) Use the back of paper for drawing or printing out things on the computer.
- 3) Take children's books to Book Aid and children's magazines to doctors' offices or share with a friend.
- 4) Instead of getting paper or plastic bags at the supermarket, take your own to the store. Use oatmeal containers or strawberry baskets for storage.

Ask for other ideas.

Now, let us go on an imaginary shopping trip. Start with reusable shopping bags. Can you tell me which is better?

- 1) Foil or plastic wrap.
- 2) Dish rag or paper towel.
- 3) Cloth napkins or paper napkins.
- 4) Milk in paperboard or plastic.
- 5) Butter in plastic tubs or in waxed paper wrapped sticks.
- 6) Dishwasher powder in box or liquid in plastic, same with laundry soap.

RECYCLE

Now, you are home using the items you purchased.

Does everything you bought after you use it go in the trash?

Who knows what this blue bin is used for?

Who has gone to the Recycling Center with their parents?

What can we recycle? Take ideas from the class and then show items.

Hold up items you're displaying and have the children do thumbs up or down if it goes in for recycling or not.

We can recycle: Metal, glass, newspaper, all cardboard, mixed paper (school papers, envelopes, and catalogs/magazines - glossy), Styrofoam, and all plastics.

Then explain that there are things that don't go in the blue bin but can still be recycled: household batteries, used cell phones, light bulbs, anything that has a cord and plug, and old clothes can be recycled at the Darien Recycling Center.

CLOSING

Today we learned about the 3 Rs: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

We learned the importance of reducing the amount of garbage we send to the incinerator and landfill. Next time you are at the store with your parents, try to keep reducing and reusing in mind as you choose what products you buy, and do not forget to recycle as much as you can of the containers and paper products that you have in your home.