



# PLANET EARTH, INC.

## Learning Extensions

**Age: 3 through Pre-K**

### **Domain: SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT**

Content Standards: SD1, SD2

The children will:

- use processes of science to actively explore and increase understanding of the environment (SD1)
- acquire scientific knowledge related to life science (SD2)

#### **Activity: Recycle, Reuse, Reduce**

Preschool children often do not realize that they are capable of helping take care of the earth because they think they are not 'big enough.' There are many ways small children CAN help the environment and even help to educate parents, too! Find a variety of interesting facts to discuss with the children. Did you know that you waste five gallons of water leaving the faucet on while you brush your teeth? Bring in five gallon jugs filled with water so they can see just how much that really is! Show the children pictures from the internet or books about the effects of pollution and waste to the earth. Do they know that all that construction paper was made from trees? Scraps of paper can be reused, and often the backside of old artwork is unmarked, and many plastic containers can be reused at home and in the classroom. Set up a recycling center in your classroom and create a 'Parent Challenge' that requests that families do the same at home. Ask the parents to send in photos of their recycling center at home, and some ideas of how to reuse some of the items. Teach the children ways they can help preserve the earth and our resources. Visit <http://epa.gov> for a great activity book full of ideas that is free to download and print. Children of all ages can easily use these ideas to help our environment (there are also labels for your recycling bins). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency offers a multitude of facts, resources, activity suggestions and pintables on their website. Create a poster or bulletin board of photos, facts and activity suggestions for preservation and title, "We CAN Make A Difference!"

### **Domain: PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT)**

Content Standards: SE1, SE3, SE4

The children will:

- develop confidence and positive self-awareness (SE1)
- increase the capacity for self-control (SE3)
- develop interpersonal and social skills for relating with other members of the learning community (SE4)

**Activity: “That Makes Me So Angry!”**

In the puppet show, the pig sings a rap song about being ‘fed up’ with people who waste resources, don’t recycle and pollute. Children this age are developing skills in problem solving by using words instead of aggression. Make two columns on chart paper, titled ‘Good choices’ and ‘Bad choices.’ In large group, ask the children for appropriate ways to deal with anger when they are frustrated. Discuss inappropriate ways that children sometimes deal with anger such as hitting. Teach them some calming techniques such as deep breathing, counting to 10, relaxing your muscles, etc. Create a ‘I need to be alone’ place in the room with a small chair or bench, some bubble wrap and a large jar with a lid labeled ‘Mad Jar.’ This can be the place they can always go if they are so angry they need to yell (into the jar) or pop bubble wrap. Talk about what things make each child angry because their answers will be different and unique to them. Role play different ways that are appropriate to communicate anger without aggression. Make sure you give them lots of positive feedback when you see them using one of these techniques!

**Domain: THE ARTS (CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT)**

Content Standards: CD1, CD2, CD3

The children will:

- explore and use a variety of materials to develop artistic expression (CD1)
- participate in music and movement activities (CD2)
- use drama to express individuality (CD3)

**Activity: “What else could it be?”**

Ask parents for recyclable items such as water bottles, cardboard rolls, scraps of material, egg cartons, bottle caps, food containers, etc. At large group, take each item out and the children will identify how that item was used originally. Then ask, “What else could it be?” Keep some google eye stickers, tissue paper, scissors, tape and markers nearby. The children will suggest what could be made from the item. If they have trouble thinking of ideas, begin adding google eyes, bottle cap wheels, orange tissue paper fire (from back of race car bottle), etc. Go through a variety of items and list the ideas the children have for reusing the materials. After group, a teacher or parent volunteer can work individually with children at a ‘hot glue station.’ The child will point to where the item should be glued and only the teacher should touch the glue gun and attach the objects together for safety. Add four bottle caps to any container to make vehicles, google eyes instantly make objects come to life, and markers can be used to

complete the creation. Play different genres of music in the background as you work, and help the children identify what type of music they hear. The children can then use their recycled creations to play and act out various scenes from stories you have, or they can make up their own—and choose music to accompany. Keep a bin for an ongoing collection of recyclables and offer ‘hot glue gun’ day at center time one or more days a week. Use all safety precautions and never leave the glue gun within reach of the children.