



How can so much fun get my child ready for school?

It can be easy to help young children love the Earth and learn to “be green.” Since young children are naturally drawn to living things, you can explain that “being green” can mean doing things that are friendly to living things in nature such as plants and animals and human beings! Grownups can be good role models when it comes to recycling and reusing our sorted trash.

Try these at home!

- **Make Some Space.** If you have a yard or a park nearby, you can make a backyard habitat! Attract birds and butterflies. Look for bugs. They’re fun to watch and you might discover a new, local species!
- **Plant a Garden.** If there is a small plot of dirt in your yard or you have a large plastic or wood container, you can plant a garden. Research to find out the best months for growing fruits and vegetables where you live. Visit the local hardware store or search online for seeds or small seedling plants. Encourage your child to take care of the plants and watch them grow until they’re ripe enough to eat.
- **Recycle and Reuse.** When taking out or sorting through the trash, separate out any recyclables like cans, bottles, plastic containers, newspapers, magazines and pieces of cardboard. Your child might be the “recycle chief” each week and learn to fill the recycle bin for pick-up or your home bin for reuse. Encourage your child to think of fun and creative ways to reuse materials such as paper bags, plastic containers, magazines or cereal boxes.



Illustrations by Corey Smigliani



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Go Green

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Things to say:

- **“Can you find a way to reuse that paper?”**
Let kids be creative about paper for scribbling or other art work.
- **“Let’s walk instead of using the car.”**
Be a good “green”role model!

Read All About It:

Why Do I Need to Eat Fruits & Veggies?
by Educational Activities

Recycle!: A Handbook for Kids, by Gail Gibbons

The Three R's: Reuse, Reduce, Recycle (What Do You Know About? Books) by Nuria Roca

Gardening with Children (Brooklyn Botanic Garden All-Region Guide) by Monika Hanneman, Patricia Hulse, Brian Johnson, Barbara Kurland, Tracey Patterson

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