An early learning collaboration by:

Caring for the Environment

April 2023

Family Activity: Upcycling Crafts

Even young children can learn about reducing waste. Try one of these simple upcycling projects (first check items for sharp edges and small parts that may be choking hazards):

Cardboard:
- Decorate small boxes to create treasure chests
- Create musical instruments by putting rice, marbles, dried beans, or beads into oatmeal or other cylinder cardboard containers (use strong tape as a seal to avoid choking hazards)
- Cut apart the front panels of cereal boxes to create simple puzzles

Plastic:
- Play frisbee with large plastic lids
- Use markers to draw faces on plastic lids showing different feelings and acting out stories with the different characters
- Fill plastic bottles with water to play rolling games

Jars:
- Paint or cover with paper to use as pencil jars
- Create an “ocean jar”: fill with one-third water, several drops of blue food coloring, and a dash of oil, tighten lid well then shake to see bubbles

Wrapping & Packing Material
- Print with bubble wrap: spread paint on a paper plate, press the bubble wrap onto it, remove and print onto blank paper

Inspired by Sesame Street in Communities Activity, “Upcycling Crafts”

Family Reading Tip: Read Aloud Outside

Make it fun by reading outdoors on the front steps or patio, at the beach or at the park. Let your children turn the pages and follow along as you read each word with your finger. Making reading a memorable experience for them will encourage their love of literature.

All books are available at local libraries. Click on each book cover for read-aloud links!

Be a Tree!
Maria Gianferrari

Rainbow Weaver
Linda Elovitz Marshall

Wonder Walkers
Micha Archer

A Seed Grows
Antoinette Portis

My Friend Earth
Patricia MacLachlan

Here We Are
Oliver Jeffers

Dias y dias/ Days and Days
Ginger Foglesong Guy

We Are Water Protectors
Carole Lindstrom

My Friend Earth
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Dias y dias/ Days and Days
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We Are Water Protectors
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Sesame Street in Communities
Pasadena Public Library
Quality Start Los Angeles
Los Angeles County Library

Scan the QR code!