

Reduce Reuse Recycle

This is a simple multi –faceted activity. It teaches kids about landfills and gives an example of how to help reduce, reuse, and recycle. It is also a nice transition into gardening.

Age Appropriateness:

5-12

Key Topics:

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Environmental

Skills:

Planning

Gardening

Critical Thinking

Materials:

Empty water bottles,
scissors, aluminum foil,
soil, seeds, water

Action Time:

2 hours

Resources:

Michael Recycle Meets
Litterbug Doug, by Ellie
Bethel

OBJECTIVES

- To educate children on landfills
- To teach how to reuse materials
- To engage children in taking care of the Earth



Discussion

Show pictures of landfills and discuss how plastic bottles sit in them forever. The landfills get bigger and bigger if we do not recycle and reuse the things we can. Tell kids that we are reusing the water bottles to plant seeds that will be able to plant into our own garden when they are big and strong enough.

Action

1. Read “Michael Recycle Meets Litterbug Doug,” by Ellie Bethel.
2. Plant seeds:
 - a) Rinse and dry the bottles.
 - b) Cut the bottle in half.
 - c) Wrap aluminum foil around bottle top opening, punch 3 tiny holes in foil for drainage.
 - d) Turn top half of bottle upside down, place in bottom half of bottle.
 - e) Fill the top half of the bottle with soil.
 - f) Plant 3-4 seeds in each bottle and then water.

Reflection

Discuss the importance of keeping the bottles out of the landfill. After the plants have grown and are transplanted outside, recycle the bottles and discuss the importance of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. The kids should also be maintaining their plants and developing a plan for how to take care of them once they are planted outdoors. This is a great transition into gardening.