Extended Morning Friends Learn About Recycling

This month in Extended Morning, we read three factual books that offered many ideas for lessons in recycling. Don’t be surprised if your child is recycling more often at home. Read further to discover why.

**A super hero**

Our recycling unit began by reading *Michael Recycle* by Ellie Bethel. Michael, a super hero character, helps the town clean up and become “green” by encouraging the townsfolk to reduce, reuse and recycle. We began discussion in circle time of what recycle means and what being “green” means at the Children’s School. After reading the sequel, *Michael Recycle Meets Litterbug Doug*, our friends participated in some fun activities. We played a game of rolling toilet paper across the carpet. We made recycle art projects using various items found around the school which may have otherwise been thrown away. We learned the paper making process by transforming recycled scraps of paper into new paper. In cooking, we stamped our initials into biscuits inspired by Michael Recycle’s “MR” medallion. We also played a sorting recycling game and took our pictures dressed up like Michael Recycle.

**Little green books**

The following book, *The Adventures of a Plastic Bottle* by Alison Inches, addresses the life of a plastic water bottle. It starts out as crude oil under the ocean floor and is eventually recycled into a plastic chair. Did you know that recycling one plastic bottle can conserve enough energy to light a sixty watt light bulb for six hours? We examined our pet worms and discussing how they recycle our snack food compost into rich soil. We’ve even added it to our garden beds! We sorted crayons and sent the broken pieces to a company titled Crayon Recycling. They melt them down to create new crayons from the old bits, called Crazy Crayons. We sent our unwanted crayons to:

Crayon Recycling Program LAF Lines Ltd.
721 Village Road
Pelican Lake, WI 54463

We reused plastic bottles by decorating them for use as flower vases at our lunch tables and reused them again playing a ring toss game.

Our unit ended with *The Earth and I* by Frank Asch. This book is a gently flowing story about the friendship between a child and the earth. The text is made up of just a few words, sending a powerful message about staying positive and having a relationship with the one earth we have. The book’s illustration is done with watercolors and colored pencils. Our activities included burying some different kinds of garbage outdoors, assembling our new compost mixer, covering balloons with papier mache to create earths, painting with watercolors, and using water spray bottles to create rainbows. We are really enjoying our days of fun and exploration.

Miss McMichael, Miss Furman, Mr. Salinetro, Mrs. Bird, Mrs. Flynn, and Mrs. Opferman
Recycling Helpers
Looking, Listening & Learning
Extended Friends Learn Recycling

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A super hero

Our recycling unit began by reading Michael Recycle by Ellie Bethel. Michael, a super hero character, helps the town clean up and become “green” by encouraging the townfolk to reduce, reuse and recycle. We began discussion in circle time of what recycle means and what being “green” means at the Children’s School. After reading the sequel, Michael Recycle Meets Litterbug Doug our friends participated in some fun activities. We played a game of rolling toilet paper across the carpet. We made recycle art projects using various items found around the school which may have otherwise been thrown away. We learned the paper making process by transforming the recycled scraps of paper and turned them into new paper. In cooking we stamped our initials into biscuits inspired by Michael Recycle’s “MR” medallion. We also played a sorting recycling game and dressed up like Michael Recycle and had our picture taken.

Little green books

Our following book, The Adventures of a Plastic Bottle by Alison Inches addresses the life of a plastic water bottle. It starts out as crude oil under the ocean floor and is eventually recycled into a plastic chair. Did you know that recycling one plastic bottle can conserve enough energy to light a sixty watt light bulb for six hours? We made fruit salad for snack and used the peels, skins and stems as compost which in turn we added to our compost tumbler along with some soil and leaves. We ate fruit in aluminum cans and then turned our trash into treasure - a decorative vase. We also reused plastic bottles and played a ring toss game with Miss Furman.

Our unit ended with The Earth and I by Frank Asch. This book is a gently flowing story about the friendship between a child and the earth. Although the text consists only a few words, the ones that are included send a powerful message about staying in a positive and giving relationship with the one earth we have. The book’s illustration is done with watercolors and colored pencils. Activities included: assembling our new compost mixer, covering balloons with paper mache to create earths, painting with watercolors, and using water spray bottles to create rainbows. Our Community Helpers theme began with the book, Tortoise Brings the Mail by Dee Lilligard. We enjoyed this book about a tortoise who loves his job, but all the animal friends think he is too slow. Tortoise graciously lets them try the job. Activities consisted of stamp art and re-enacting the story using stick puppets and the shadow screen.

Miss McMichael and Miss Furman
Recycling Stars