Extended Friends Learn Recycling

This month in Extended Afternoon, we read three factual books that offered many ideas for lessons in recycling. Don’t be surprised if your child is recycling at home more these days. 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 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