

RECYCLING STORY

This activity helps students understand what happens to the waste they throw in the recycling bin. Consider complementing this activity with a story book or film on recycling.

Objective

To give children the opportunity to learn about where recycling goes after it is collected at the curb.

Materials

- Colour photos of recyclables, recycling bins, recycling centre, conveyor belts, bales of flattened recyclables, and recycling trucks
- Laminating paper (optional)
- Tape (optional)

Directions

1. Find appropriate photos on the internet or elsewhere to depict your story about recycling. Pictures of the single stream sorting system in Sudbury can be found [here](#). Draw the children into a circle and begin to tell the story of waste by showing photos and asking questions: What are recyclables? Where do they go? Who collects them? Where does it go next? What happens to it? Is it turned into something new? Make sure all students can see the pictures.
2. Alternative: Scramble the photo story line and tape it onto a wall or board, have the students discuss and instruct you to put it in the correct order.
3. Alternative: Involve the children by having the child that gives a close or correct answer stand at the front holding the photo card in the correct order.
4. Follow up with a discussion about why recycling is better than throwing things in the garbage.
 - What are you saving when you recycle?
 - Is recycling better for the environment?
 - Besides recycling what other things can we do to help the environment?
5. Discuss recyclable materials and what they are turned into, e.g. newspaper can be recycled into cardboard.
6. Ask the students, "Does it take more energy to reuse an item (like a water bottle) or to send it all the way to a factory and then make it into a new item?" Use the energy savings idea as a reason why students should reuse first, then recycle when they can't reuse it anymore.