

PDF Guide

Through hands-on activities, students will be introduced to the concepts of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. They will understand why and how to institute these behaviors in their daily lives, with a focus on learning what can and cannot go in the blue recycling bin in Norfolk.

Program Details

Targeted SOLs

- English K.1.d, K.1.f, K.1.i, K.2, K.7.b, K.7, K.7.h, K.7.d, K.5.b, K.8.b
- Science K.1.b, K.1.c, K.11.a, K.11.b
- Math K.12

Supplies Needed

- Bin to hold recycling
- Bin to hold trash
- Box of common household recyclables and trash (clean and dry)
- Answer key for recyclable/non-recyclable items (included)

Program Outline

1. Introduce The 3R's - Vocab and Dance

Reduce

Dance Move: Hold arms out to either side, like carrying a big box. Say "Reduce, Reduce, Reduce" and each time bring hands closer together, like making something smaller.

Discussion: What does it mean to reduce? Does reduce mean we use less?

Reuse

Dance Move: "Reuse, Reuse, Reuse" – motion is like stirring a big pot, hands are clasped and fingers are interlaced. Each time you say Reuse, make a big stirring motion.

Discussion: What does it mean to reuse? Can you reuse a backpack? Can you reuse a lunchbox? Can you reuse a water bottle?

Recycle

Dance Move: "Recycle, Recycle, Recycle" – move fist over fist in a circular motion like the disco dance!

Discussion: What does it mean to recycle? Does recycling mean putting the right things in the blue bin?

Repeat the dance until the students are familiar with the moves.

2. Play 'Is It Recyclable'

1. Place the bin of mixed recyclable and non-recyclable items at the front of the room.
2. Ask one student at a time to come and hold up an item from the bin.
3. Ask the student(s) what the item is made from and which bin it belongs in.
4. Briefly explain why the item belongs in which bin, using the answer key.

3. Explain

- Explain that we are focusing on what can be put into the blue bin in the City of Norfolk. Some cities recycle differently than Norfolk. Some items cannot go in the blue bin but can still be recycled through a special process--given the age group, we focus just on what can and can't go in the blue bin in the City of Norfolk.
- Explain that not all types of plastic can be recycled in Norfolk, even if they display the recycling symbol. Plastic must have a long neck for the recycling machines to correctly sort it.
- Some items can be reused instead of thrown away/recycled. We should always try to reuse before discarding. Ask the students to suggest ways certain items can be reused (remind the students of the reuse dance move).
- Explain that plastic bags should never be put into the blue recycling bin at home because they can break the machinery at the recycling facility. Instead plastic bags should be taken back to the grocery store to be recycled (unless the school does plastic bag collection), reused (like for picnics or for pet messes), or thrown away.

4. Supplemental Activities and Conclusion

Time permitting, see Supplemental Activities section.

Conclude

1. Remind students that the actions they take make a difference. By using the 3R's and sharing them with friends and family, we can help our planet.
2. Thank students for listening.

Supplemental Activities for Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Recycling Race

1. Set up one recycling bin and one trash bin far enough away that the students can run to them.
2. Have each student take a turn by grabbing one item and running it to the correct bin.
 - You can set a timer to encourage students to place as many items in the bins as possible.
 - You can allow each student to have a set amount of turns.
 - You can allow the students to play until all items have been placed in the bins.
3. Once the game is over, check each bin and explain any mistakes.
4. Play again if time allows so that students can learn from any mistakes.

Litter Education

1. What is litter?
 - Is it trash that is on the ground outside?
 - Is it trash that is in a trash can?
2. Where should litter go?
3. What can we do to help?
 - Can you take a bag when you go to the park to put trash in it?
 - Can you make sure your trash goes in a trash can?
4. Discuss Shared Spaces
 - Help students identify places they share with other people (parks/playgrounds, streets, sidewalks, parking lots, etc.)
 - Discuss how litter affects the spaces we share with others. We wouldn't be happy if someone came into our yard and threw their trash in it.
5. Spread trash and recycling out on ground. Discuss with students how they would feel if they were playing in that space with all the trash.
6. Challenge students to pickup and sort the trash. Team work!
7. Check the recycling to see what they got right and explain what shouldn't be in the recycling.



RECYCLE RIGHT

PAPER



Flattened Cardboard,
Newspapers,
Magazines, & Mail

BOTTLES



Plastic Bottle & Jugs
(empty, rinse and
remove cap)

CANS



Aluminum & Steel
(empty and rinse)

GLASS



Bottles & Jars
(empty, rinse and
remove cap)

CARTONS



Food & Beverage
Cartons
(empty, rinse and
remove cap)

NO



No Plastic Bags



No Styrofoam or
Clam Shells
(carryout materials)



No Pizza Boxes



No Glass Dishes



No Scrap Metal



No Shredded
Paper



No Cords, Hoses,
Ropes or Tangles