

Think Recycling

Assembly Ideas: Teachers Notes

These ideas are for primary schools and suggest ways that children can be encouraged to participate in class assemblies.

Recycling roadshow

This assembly should follow the work suggested in the ThinkCans classroom materials. It offers the children a chance to communicate the work they have been doing into looking at the benefits of recycling. There will be a variety of ways to do this and the points below suggest the content of a class presentation to the assembly.

Children can illustrate with posters and talk about the following:

1. Describe what we throw away.
2. Where all this waste goes to (predominantly landfill if it is not recycled).
3. How this wastes valuable resources.
4. What is meant by recycling. i.e. getting the useful materials back so that they can be used again.
5. What can be recycled. e.g. paper, plastic, glass, steel (tin cans) and aluminium (drink cans).
6. Why recycling is positive. It saves natural resources, energy and reduces waste.
7. How the local council is encouraging recycling and where materials can be taken to recycle.
8. A summary which encourages the children to recycle whenever possible.

Different groups can be made responsible for one of the sections and so the assembly allows children of all abilities to be contribute. It will also contribute to the literacy curriculum in promoting communication and language.

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What's in your rubbish?

This assembly suggestion involves the teacher and possibly two or three children volunteers. It involves looking at some of the content of a typical rubbish bin and sees how it could be recycled to reduce waste.

Some preparation prior to the assembly is needed.

Collect 'rubbish' from home and keep in a bin bag. This could include newspapers, cans (remove any sharp edges), plastic bottles and packaging materials. Make sure the waste is clean.

In the assembly, go through the rubbish and ask the children if they would keep each item or throw it away.

Then talk about all the waste that they would throw away having to be dealt with and normally going to big rubbish tips. These landfill sites are not very pleasant (imagine all the rubbish piling up in your street) and it is also a big waste of resources.

Then describe how all these materials can be recycled and how this saves resources, reduces waste and saves energy.

Finally summarise by describing the ways that the children can recycle both in school (aluminium cans in one bin and papers in another) and at home. Most councils now have waste collection systems that promote recycling.

Waste not want not

This suggestion is a simple role play that shows the advantages of re-using carrier bags.

Have three children volunteers to play the roles of:

- Shop keeper
- Wasteful buyer
- Recycling buyer

Before the assembly, collect 4 or 5 plastic bags and about 10 newspapers. If possible borrow a recycling bin or have a box with the recycle symbol clearly drawn on the side.

Start with the shopkeeper in the centre of the stage. The two buyers sit a few metres away on chairs at either side. The sequence of events are as follows.

Think Recycling

Waste not want not

1. Wasteful buyer goes to the shopkeeper to buy a newspaper. The shopkeeper asks the buyer if they want a plastic bag to carry it in.
2. The buyer takes the newspaper in the bag and goes back to their seat. They take the paper out of the bag, drops the bag onto the floor and reads the paper.
3. When finished reading the wasteful buyer leaves the paper crumpled on floor.
4. Recycling buyer does the same but refuses the plastic bag.
5. When finished reading, the recycling buyer puts paper into recycle bin.
6. Repeat the sequence so that after 3 or 4 cycles, the wasteful buyer has lots of waste paper and plastic bags around them. Recycling buyer does not.
7. Teacher (or child commentator) points out the waste of not recycling and also using bags when they are not needed. Encourage children to think about when they can recycle and how they can reduce the use of plastic bags.