



RECYCLING



7-11



The whole
classroom



1-2 hours



PLASTIC IS NOT FANTASTIC



The learning objectives are:

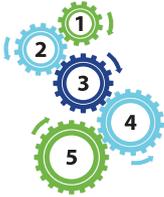
- Pursue the knowledge and practices that can lead to more environmentally friendly and ecologically responsible decisions and lifestyles;
- Achieve the competence to reduce, reuse, recycle plastic;
- Gain an understanding of the concept of “green practice”.

Teaching children about recycling can be difficult, because the concept is fairly abstract in particular for younger children. It can be difficult for them to understand that plastic just does not disappear, but it ends up in a landfill – most of the times – or even worse in nature.

- Gain recycling habits;
- Recycle a used plastic product.



- Recycling bins;
- Plastic bottles for liquid detergent like softener;
- Scissors;
- Glue;
- Colored cardboard or felt;
- Pencils that can be used on plastic surface without smearing;
- Strings.



Step by step plan on how to implement learning materials in learning surroundings. Please keep in mind that these materials and activities are not “written in stone” and they can be modify or adjust according to the needs and abilities of the children you are working with. «Every school in the country should put sustainability at the heart of its thinking» (DEFRA White Paper, 2011, p. 49).

Activity 1: at first discuss with your children. Ask them to express their opinions on recycling by using their personal experience. You may also ask them questions like:

- What do you know about recycling?
- Do you recycle at home or do you avoid it? Why?
- Do you know what happens to the different materials after putting them in the recycling bin?
- Do you know what plastic marine pollution is? (About 8 million tons of plastic enter the sea every year and at this rate humans will face a future with more plastic in the ocean than fish by 2050). If you want to deepen this topic please go to the facebook site of the NGO “Plastic change international” where you can find

You can also use «sustainable shopping» as a discussion theme. Ask children to list all items they remember when they go shopping that are made of plastic or are packed into plastic.

- Disposal shopping bags (explain the benefits of reusable ones)
- Packaging (explain the benefits of choosing products with less packaging, for example not packaged/loose)

Then explain to children (using a simple language) the meaning of green practices. Use the following glossary:

Reduce – means to reduce the waste we are producing during the everyday activities, studies, at home, and life in general.

Reuse – means looking for ways to reuse some of the materials we use for our everyday life, including paper, toys, electronics and any other tools. If we reuse, then we do not have to buy a new item. Consequently, we save energy producing a new one and reduce the overall pollution.

Recycle – means that the things we cannot reuse in their current form have to be recycled. Then, they can be used as raw material to produce a new item that will be useful to us. This way, we waste less and also help our environment.



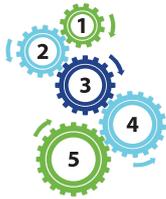
Don't forget that plastic collection is focused on packaging only, and therefore, bottles, jars, containers, bags, envelopes, clear wraps, disposal tableware, bowls.

Reasons to refuse single use plastic: made from fossil fuels; huge carbon footprint; Will still be here in hundred years; Pollutes our oceans killing marine animals and birds; Can enter our food chain

Activity 2

If you do not have a recycle area in class create one in your class with different colored bins for recyclable items. Ask the students to decorate the bins. For younger children, place an identifying picture on the outside of the container.





Workshop

Provide clean plastic bottles for liquid detergent like softener. You also need scissors, glue and felt or cardboard and strings. Help students to prepare animals or phantasy creatures (see picture) and hang them up in classroom for decoration.



Enrichment activities:

1. Visit your local recycling centre to show students the different materials that are collected and recycled. Make sure to inquire with the recycling centre about how they recycle items such as computers, lightbulbs and batteries, as well. Explain to your class how not recycling certain items can pollute the land and lead to ground water contamination.

2. Find some charity organization that collects plastic or bottle caps for donations and collect them together as a class. For example: some leukemia research centers collect plastic bottle cap. If possible, engage entire school and set up a target as how many kg you want to reach for donation. Celebrate the result when reached all together! The positive feedback will further motivate your children and stay in their memory.

3. Participate to the European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR) with your own action. The European Week for Waste Reduction aims to mobilise as many actors as possible to implement awareness raising actions on waste reduction, product reuse and materials recycling. Schools can register here.

If you are interested in best practice collected under EWWR go here:
www.ewwr.eu/en/ideas/ideas-for-actions.

