



Discovery All Around!

Hands-on Exploration Fun



Salem Public Library

FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Recycled materials are a child's art and invention box all ready for play! Dedicate a bin to hold egg cartons, tea boxes and the little packing materials that come with purchases. Add some



Image from modernparentsmessykids.com

rubber bands, masking tape and markers and your little one is ready to create a robot, make a doll house or build a miniature city for all of those Matchbox cars.

Nature Weaving

Go on a nature walk with your child, collecting twigs, leaves and flowers along the way. (Just get permission before your neighbor's tulips get added to your bouquet!) When home, take an open shape (a box top with the center cut out or a dollar store grapevine wreath works well) and randomly wrap with twine. Then have your preschooler practice their fine motor skills weaving their bits of nature into their frame. This is an ephemeral piece of art that can be remade



Image from housingaforest.com

again and again! Create a more traditional loom shape with parallel lines of twine for older children to practice their weaving skills creating patterns and a denser mat of natural beauty.

Seed Bombs

Celebrate Earth Day (or any spring or summer day!) by helping to create your own random acts of beauty outdoors. There are two ways to do this. Simplest is to have your little gardener tear up bits of recycled paper (the less ink, the better), soak in a bowl of water for a half hour, then turn into pulp in a blender. Add wildflower seeds, smush together (feels so good!), shape into balls and let dry in a sunny place. These bombs are best planted



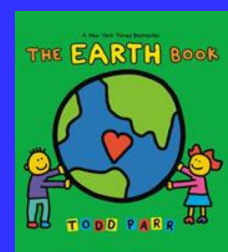
Image from cbc.ca/parents

(you could pitch them around your planting patch then play hide and seek before digging a little hole to plant.) Alternatively, mix your wildflower seed with some compost and potters clay, adding enough water to make into a dough. These balls can be tossed onto neglected plots (with permission, please) and a good rain will add them to the beauty of the area. Be sure to select native wildflowers

Some of us live in houses, some of us live in apartments. Some of us live in a different place every day of the week. But we all live on the Earth, and we all need to take care of this planet we live on! Visiting the library, in person or virtually, where a community shares its resources, is one way to help take care of our planet. Here are some other ways to celebrate the Earth, and reuse what we have while learning about our wonderful home—the Earth!

(OSU Extension Services is a great resource.) Going over catalogs, pointing out colors, height, and sun requirements is a fun joint endeavor.)

Picture Books to celebrate the Earth!



The EARTH Book
JP Parr

Plant the Tiny Seed

JP Matheson





ELEMENTARY STEAM ACTIVITIES

Create your own Bug Hotel



Image from redtedart.com

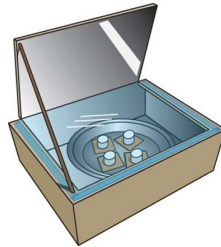
Although there are insects a gardener of any age doesn't want to see in their garden, there are many that are essential to a healthy, thriving

landscape. Here's a simple elementary age project to encourage ladybugs and honeybees to rest a spell in your neck of the woods. Cut a large plastic bottle into two cylinders. Collect pine cones, sticks, bark and other heavy-duty nature scraps (hollow bamboo sticks are particularly useful.) Pack the cylinders tightly. Wrap some wire around the tubes and hang in the garden. Ladybugs like to overwinter as large groups in between dry plant material. Some twigs packed together give the ladybugs plenty of room to squeeze in and wait for warmer days and eating aphids. Did you know that a ladybug can eat 5000 aphids during its lifetime? (So those aphids won't be eating your lovely garden plants!)

Solar Marshmallow Cooker

Make that most delicious of treats, a S'more, using recycled materials and solar power (and marshmallows, chocolate and graham crackers!) Take a cardboard box 3" deep and with adult help cut out a three sided flap on the top. Cover the inside of the box, including the flap, with aluminum foil

smoothly glued down. Securely tape two layers of plastic wrap across the opening. Slide a pie pan with 2-4 graham cracker halves topped with a marshmallow each into your box and prop open the lid with a stick. In the direct sun, your marshmallow should melt. Add a chocolate square and another graham cracker half to each. Squeeze down, then heat until the chocolate is soft. Pull out your plate and enjoy!



Get more detailed directions from climatekids.nasa.gov

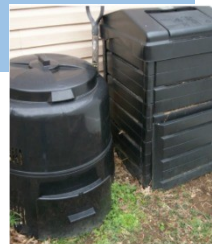
Be a Bug Farmer!

Setting up a compost bin (and remembering as a family to add and tend to it) is a great way to take care of the planet. Remember, "The key to being a good composter is to think of yourself as a bug farmer. Bacteria, fungi, protozoans, centipedes, millipedes, beetles and worms are the ones doing all of the work, so you need to keep them happy."

Check out

Home Composting: as easy as ...1,2,3 at co.marion.or.us for

detailed information on setting up your own "bug farm".



Recycled Wind Chimes

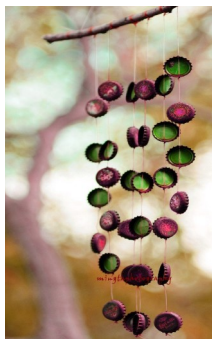
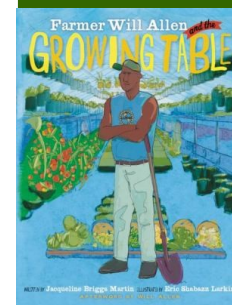


Image from recyclenation.com

Nothing is sweeter than the sound of a wind chime in your backyard, connecting music to the natural world. A great family project is to create your own with recycled metal materials

(keys, bottle caps, old silverware, nuts, etc.) attached to a ring shape (a canning ring or embroidery hoop) or a distinctive branch. This is a totally open-ended project: explore the sounds your metal bits make, or add beads and shells for extra beauty. Wind chimes have been in use for close to 5000 years. Add your own backyard chimes to this long history of nature-based music!

HELPING TAKE CARE OF THE EARTH!



Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table

J 630.91732 Martin 2013

Fly Guy Presents: Garbage and Recycling

JER Arnold



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<http://www.salemlibrary.org>

Carbon footprint: The amount of carbon dioxide one human releases into the environment in a year.