

Raise the children's awareness of the need to conserve resources and protect the environment by discussing how the items on this poster can be recycled, and create learning opportunities across all six Areas of Learning with these stimulating cross-curricular ideas

Using the poster

- Draw the children's attention to the different categories of objects on the poster and explain what is meant by 'recycling'. Suggest that you set up a recycling area within your setting.
- Create card signs indicating 'plastic', 'cardboard', 'clothing' and 'paper' and attach them to the sides of large plastic bins or storage containers.
- Display a large sheet of card inviting families to bring in appropriate items to put into the bins.
- Cover a display board with brightly coloured paper. Hang the poster in the centre and attach suitable items for recycling around it. Link the items to the appropriate poster sections with lengths of ribbon in a contrasting colour. Suspend larger items from the ceiling in front of the display and attach a label to each one depicting the category of the item, for example, 'plastic' or 'cardboard'.
- Encourage parents to take their children to see how a recycling depot is organised so that they can make links between this and your own recycling area.



Activities across the curriculum

Personal, social and emotional development

- Look at the picture of glass items and emphasise the dangers of handling glass. With parental permission, take a small group of children to a glass recycling bin and invite them to listen to the satisfying sound of glass shattering as an adult drops jars and bottles through the holes. Explain how broken glass is ground and used to make new items.
- Point to the 'clothing' image on the poster and discuss how fabrics can be recycled to make new items, or donated to those in need. Invite parents to supply clean, unwanted items of clothing and ask the children to sort them into different piles, for example, clothing for babies, children and adults. Put the piles into separate bags, label them and take them to a charity shop.

Communication, language and literacy

- Look at the 'paper' image on the poster and explain how this material can be recycled. Invite the children to bring in samples of different types of paper, such as tissue paper, newspaper and kitchen roll. Cut the samples into sheets of identical size and make a 'feely' book about paper.
- Point to the 'clothing' image and

explain how old clothing can be recycled. Ask parents to donate suitable garments and accessories for a role-play charity shop.

Mathematical development

- Collect a wide range of plastic bottles and wash them thoroughly. Point to the plastic bottles on the poster and explain how they can be recycled to make new plastic items. Invite the children to arrange your bottle collection in height order. Put the bottles into water or dry sand and supply funnels and jugs so that the children can explore capacity.
- Look at the pictures of cardboard boxes and explore how they are made. Open out a cardboard box to form a flat two-dimensional shape and then reassemble it back into a three-dimensional box using sticky tape.

Knowledge and understanding of the world

- Ask the children to point to objects on the poster that can be used to 'put things in' and introduce the word 'container'. Which would be the most suitable container for washing-up liquid or tea bags? Can the children say why?
- Look at the cardboard boxes on the poster and suggest recycling a selection of boxes to create model buildings.

Physical development

- Look at the 'paper' image and show the children how to recycle a newspaper. Tear the newspaper into strips in a bowl, mix it with glue, squeeze it into a pulp and mould it over an upturned plastic bowl. Leave the glue to harden and remove the bowl. Paint the finished paper bowl and varnish with PVA glue.
- Invite the children to name the organic objects on the poster and explain to them how gardeners recycle garden and household organic waste to create compost. Make a compost heap in an old wooden box and encourage the children to recycle flowers, plants, fruit, vegetable peelings and leaves. Spread the resulting compost on a garden plot.

Creative development

- Look at the 'paper' and 'cardboard' images and ask the children to experiment with using these materials to form bases for their collage work and paintings.
- Look at the image of the plastic bottles and collect together plastic items, such as bottles, bubble wrap, buttons and straws, and use them to create imaginary creatures.

Jean Evans is an early years consultant and author.