

Trash to Treasure

Create art from recycled materials while understanding the need to eliminate litter and be kind to our earth.

Big Idea

Recycled materials can be used to make art work from paintings to sculptures.

Standards

9.A Demonstrate and apply geometric concepts involving points, lines, planes and space.	Students will be able to manipulate different recycled materials and identify the shapes, lines, and points.
12.E.ECb Participate in discussions about simple ways to take care of the environment.	Children will discuss and recall the ways we can reuse and repurpose things to prevent them from becoming trash.
25.A.ECd Visual Arts: Investigate and participate in activities using visual arts materials.	Children will use different recycled materials to create a unique piece.
25.B Understand the similarities, distinctions and connections in and among the arts.	Children will be able to explore 2D recycled painting and 3D recycled sculptures.
26.B Apply skills and knowledge necessary to create and perform in one or more of the arts.	Children will apply their skills and knowledge of different Art materials to create their own artwork.

Materials

- Clean things that are ready to be recycled or thrown away such as:
- Recyclable containers (Yogurt container, milk carton, cereal box, cracker box ect.)
- Soap to clean the plastic and metal containers
- Strong glue or tape (for example, rubber cement, duct tape, or electrical tape)
- Magazines and newspapers
- Yarn and string
- Scissors
- Stapler (optional)
- Hole Punches (optional)
- Markers/ crayons (optional)
- Paint (optional)
- Stickers (optional)

Setup

Find a clean space to work either a table or a floor area and cover it with newspaper. One may want access to a sink to wash hands. Clean or show the children how to clean

any containers they may want to use to create art. Displayed materials and cleaned, reusable pieces available for children to use in their creation.

Directions

1. Discuss what it means to recycle and reuse things with children. When we recycle, we allow objects to be repurposed and reused again. The material is cleaned, melted and made into something new. When we reuse things, we take things we - or other people - are ready to throw away, clean them, and give them a new life, sometimes with a different purpose.
2. Have children sift through different things that are cleaned and are ready to be thrown away (a sock with a hole, an old shampoo bottle, plastic cups, dried out markers, old cookie containers, etc.).
3. Have children use the cleaned objects to create art. Children can create a sculpture with larger pieces and the adhesives. They can alternately use lids, cups and bottles as paint brushes, dipping them in paint and stamping, dragging or rolling them on paper. Children can use their imagination to create different art pieces and discuss the ways they are repurposing old items that otherwise might not be used again.

Investigation Questions:

Q. Why is it important to recycle?

A. It helps to reduce waste and keep our earth clean.

Q. What is a sculpture and how is it different than a painting?

A. A piece of art work that is 3D or can be seen from many different sides, while a painting is 2D and flat.

Q. How else could we reuse items?

Q. What other ideas do you have about recycling?

Q. Can you think of any artist that use recycled materials to create art?

Q. How do you think we should display our artwork for others to see?