

NORTH EAST WASTE FORUM

NEW WAYS WITH LESS WASTE

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Educational Group Time Early Childhood Waste Wise Education Project

The aims of the Group Time are as follows:

- 1) To talk to children about garbage trucks, rubbish and landfill. To help them gain an understanding that rubbish is taken to landfill sites and dumped.
- 2) To introduce to children the idea that we are dumping too much rubbish as a society. To introduce to children the concept of sustainability.
- 3) To introduce to children separated materials from a waste audit. Three groups of resources will be focused on. These are materials that can be composted, recycled or avoided.
- 4) To highlight waste avoidance with the discussion of waste free lunches, repairing items and giving away items that you do not need anymore.

Materials Required

Separated materials from a waste audit at the Early Childhood Service. If a waste audit has not been carried out, these materials could be brought in to the service. Three sorts of rubbish are required these being:

compost

items which could be recycled

items which can be avoided e.g. plastic wrap, plastic yogurt containers.

Re-useable containers and a drink bottle used for waste free lunch discussion.

Book use for a story "*Rubbish*" By Amanda Graham and Lisa James.

Song used to complete group time.

Method

1) Use questions to encourage children to think and respond to concepts being introduced. "Where does your rubbish go after the garbage truck picks it up?"

2) Introduce new concepts:

"Now the problem is that we are all throwing away too much rubbish."

"The places which we are putting our rubbish in is getting really full."

"These places are called the rubbish dump or landfill."

"We need to start thinking about when you grow up and how we can stop throwing out so much rubbish."

3) Offer a solution to the problem

a) We can compost these items

Discuss: "What does compost mean, and what can we do with compost?" Show children the materials which can be composted.

b) We can recycle these items

Discuss: "What does it mean if something can be recycled?" Show children the items which can be recycled.

c) We can avoid these items. Discuss "What does it mean if I can avoid something?"

Highlight waste avoidance by comparing discarded packaging to re-useable containers and a re-useable drink bottle.

Show children items, ask them "Would I throw out this drink bottle or bring it home and wash it up?" Compare the drink bottle to a popper style drink packaging.

d) Talk more about waste avoidance. Talk about repairing items and giving items away if you don't need them anymore.

e) Discuss with children that their teachers will help them more with waste avoidance. Let them know that we will let their parents know what we have been discussing.

4) Read the story which reiterates all of the concepts that you have discussed. *Rubbish* by Amanda Graham and Lisa James (see the resources list in the resource kit).

5) Sing the Re-use and Recycle song (contained in the resource kit).

6) Thank children for listening.