

# Don't Pitch It Use It Again

To continue on our investigation of recycling and reusing, the teacher posed a problem to the class. The art center was a disaster, how could the class fix/clean it up? The children decided that they should use containers to put the crayons and markers in. The children chose which containers to use. The teacher asked the children if the class should organize the materials by type or color. The children chose color. The children then worked to write the different colors on labels and taped them around the containers. The children worked together to organize all the materials by color.



**Messy Art Shelf**



**Organized Materials**

Standards: Sci: 19. Explore ways of moving objects in different ways, 11. Engage in simple scientific inquiry, 8. Explore new and familiar materials through play, 9. Explore new uses for familiar materials, 6. Use familiar objects to solve a problem, 3. Use one or more senses to observe and learn. ELA: 1. Identifies print, 2. Prints, 4. Book handling, 6a. Describe attributes, 8. Comprehension, 10. Communication. Math: 17. Sequence order of events, 13. Identify shapes, 1. Count. SS: 27. Identifies uses of natural resources, 12. Demonstrate cooperative behaviors, 13. Engage in problem solving behavior, 14. Demonstrate ability to make own choices, 11. Demonstrate understanding or roles in a group.

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The first concept the class focused on during our discussion of recycling was composition or materials. The children didn't always recognize if the item was paper, plastic or glass. The children collected lots of recycled materials. They then had the opportunity to sort the different materials by composition. During circle time the class each picked out a recycled item, and the class tried to figure out what material it was made from. The children then worked in the "Recycling Center" to sort the rest of the materials by composition. The children were able to sort the materials into separate boxes. They noticed that we had more plastic than anything else.



Standards: Sci: 19. Explores ways of moving objects in different ways, 11. Engages in simple scientific inquiry, 8. Explores new and familiar materials through play, 8. Explores new uses for familiar materials, 2. Explores and compares materials, 3. Uses one or more senses to observe and learn. ELA: 1. Identifies print, 2. Prints, 4. Handles books appropriately, 6a. Describes attributes, Math: 18. Graphs according to one attribute, 15. Gathers, sorts and compares objects, 16. Orders a set of objects, 12. Matches and sorts like objects. SS: 27. Identifies uses of natural resources, 6. Recognizes people have many wants.

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## Recycled Mosaics

The class was very interested in making objects with recycled materials. To help the children utilize the recycled materials in a new way and to follow their interests, the teacher explained what a mosaic is. She then helped the children find materials they could use to create their own mosaic. The children collected and cut up different types of materials and created a picture out of them.



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## Recycled Structures

Throughout the recycle investigation, the children had been working on gluing the different recycled materials together to create objects. The teachers helped the children plan out their creations. After reading a few books to spark the children's creative ideas, the teachers asked the children what they wanted to make out of the recycled materials. The children each came up with something and then worked on drawing a picture of what they were going to make. The next day the children searched through all of the recycled materials to find materials that would help them make their creations. Over the next few days the children worked with the assistance of the teachers to make their creations.



*Oliver- a parade float*  
*Erica- an artist painting an apple*  
*James- a piggy bank*  
*Ellie- a lantern*  
*Michael- a jack in the box*  
*Adi- a Ninja Turtle*  
*Eli- a parachute*  
*Ben- a piggy bank*  
*Luka- a Ninja Turtle jack in the box*

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## Terrariums

To show one way to reuse materials, the teachers helped the children make terrariums. The children each picked out their own bottles and cut them in half with assistance from the teacher. The children then added soil and seeds and picked out a toy animal to include in their terrarium. The children helped tape the lids on their bottles and then found a sunny spot to put them in. The children watched their terrariums each day and observed how much their plants were growing.



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