

This is your planet



CREATIVELY GREEN FAMILY ARTS FESTIVAL GUIDE & LESSONS



Green is a new way of thinking about the world you live in and about the way you live your life. You only have one planet to live on, and you can make the planet better if changes are made about wasting energy and resources and about polluting the air, land, and water on the earth.



Green Living means you understand that:

- The choices you make affect not just you, but everybody everywhere.
- The choices that you make affect not just today, but the future.
- *Saving the Planet* or *Saving the Environment* means that you are actually saving yourself because you are helping to keep the air clean to breathe, the water clean to drink, the food safe to eat, the habitats safe to live in, and the energy clean to run the places where you live, learn, play and work.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES



When you recycle something, it ends up at a recycling center instead of a landfill or garbage dump. It gets taken apart, broken down into its raw materials, and turned into new items that you can use. One great way to be creative without spending lots of money is by using recycled materials.



Connecting with nature helps you become a protector of the planet and a better learner.



How Many Disposable Drink Containers Do I Use?

Use the chart to write down how many disposable drink containers you use in a day and in a week.

<i>Drink Container</i>	<i>Day 1</i>	<i>Day 2</i>	<i>Day 3</i>	<i>Day4</i>	<i>Day 5</i>	<i>Day 6</i>	<i>Day 7</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Glass								
Plastic								
Aluminum								
Grand Total: _____								
Estimated Usage For : 1 month (4 weeks) _____								
6 months (24 weeks) _____								
12 months (52 weeks) _____								

When you look at your results, what kinds of conclusions can you draw about what you use? Are there any changes you would like to make? What can you do with the disposable containers that you use?



Shake It Up: Homemade Tambourine !

You'll need two sturdy paper or plastic plates, some craft glue, and a handful of dry beans or beads. Put the beans or beads on one plate, and glue the other on top. Decorate your new instrument with markers or crayons. Then make some music together!



Donation Station !

Make a game of the kids sifting through old clothes and toys. Set a timer, and see who can make the biggest pile of items to donate. Then head for Goodwill as you talk about giving to others, not to landfills.



From Trash to Treasure!

Think of three ways that each of these items can be reused instead of being thrown away. Use the items to create new objects.

Gift wrapping paper	Cardboard box
Paper lunch bags	Plastic milk carton
A toy	Old crayons
A glass jar	Wooden board
An empty plastic soda bottle	Plastic bag
A detergent bottle	Newspaper



Decorate your own Waste Station!

Make a creative project out of decorating individualized bins for recycling. Collect three buckets or plastic bins, get some chalkboard paint, and have your kids decorate them each for paper, plastic and aluminum.



Make a Magazine and Book Holder!

Don't throw away your kids' old cereal boxes and art projects from school. Turn them into attractive magazine and book holders for their rooms. *Supplies: Empty cereal box; Scissors; Craft glue; Kids' school coloring or art projects made from paper.*

Directions: 1. Cut off the top of the cereal box. Halfway across the top of the box, cut at a 45 degree angle down to front of your magazine or book holder. Cut straight across then back up the other side at the same angle.
2. Glue your kids' coloring masterpiece or art work to the outside of the cereal box.
3. Place your favorite magazines or books in your new holder!



Make a Trash Art Mural!

Use colorful, clean trash items that cannot be recycled to make a wall mural. Create a theme like a rainbow, a garden, or an undersea landscape. Help children identify colors, textures, patterns. *Supplies: Butcher paper or newsprint; Clean, colorful items that cannot be recycled (food/snack wrappers, plastic straws, used wrapping paper); Glue or tape; Scissors.*

Directions: Arrange and secure items to paper to create your masterpiece!



Leaf Imprints!

Clay prints look like fossils! Help your child use them to decorate a planter or to make a necklace. *Supplies: Soft craft clay; A rolling pin and wax paper; Leaves; A straw and string.*

Directions:

1. Roll out a small piece of craft clay so that it's about 1/8" thick and large enough to fit your leaf.
2. Place your leaf vein side down on the rolled out clay, cover with a piece of wax paper, and, very gently, roll over it with the rolling pin. (For a necklace, make a hole using the straw.) Bake according to directions on clay package, cool, and insert it into a planter or thread a string through the hole.



Wiggle Worm!

Painted paper towel rolls and egg cartons make an adorable worm that doubles as a homemade toy. *Supplies: String or twine; Egg carton; Toilet paper cardboard tubes; Scotch tape; Paints and paintbrushes.*

Directions: Paint the cardboard tubes with different colors and let them dry. Cut out two sections from the egg carton to be used for head and tail. Cut a length of string two and a half feet long. Link the wiggle worm first by threading the string through one of the egg carton pieces, then through each of the tubes ending with a piece of egg carton for the tail. Leave at least a foot of string in front of the head for pulling your worm. Tie knots at both ends. Then secure the string at the end to the egg carton tail with tape. Decorate the face. Pull the worm along and watch it wiggle and roll.



Nature Bracelet !

Help your child create a one-of-a-kind bracelet by wrapping a piece of masking tape “sticky side up” around his wrist and having him collect and stick colorful leaves, flowers, and other natural objects to it. **Supplies:** Masking tape; Scissors

Directions: Before going outdoors with your child, wrap a piece of masking tape to his wrist, sticky side up. As you explore, help him attach colorful leaves, flowers, and other interesting discoveries to his bracelet. When done, use scissors to snip off the nature bracelet and display it on a bulletin board, shelf, or wall.



Large, Lightweight Blocks !

Stuff paper grocery bags with plastic shopping bags or used packing material. Seal each bag shut by taping a piece of cardboard over the paper bag's opening. Build a castle or a fort.



Grab Bags !

Buy reusable cotton totes at a craft store and have the kids decorate them with nontoxic markers. Suggest slogans like “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.” Talk about how simple things like toting reusable bags to the market can diminish plastic-bag waste.



Go Outside !

Apply sunscreen and get outdoors for a hike or bike ride to the store. Appreciate the beauty of nature without that pesky glass window between you and the great natural world. Take walks in your neighborhood. Sit in your backyard or stroll through the park. Look at clouds, and talk about the weather. Observe the plants and trees, the birds and the small animals. Listen for bird and animal calls and learn to identify the sounds made by different creatures.



Nature Hunt !

Do a nature hunt at a nearby park or on a trail. Have your children search for as many plants and natural habitats as they can. When you get back, plant your own veggies so you can observe nature at home—and eat it, too.



Visit a Local Farm for a Garden Tour !

Taking a tour of a local farm is a great opportunity to show your kids where their food comes from. Inspired by the tour? Pick up some seeds and make some garden space for the family to plant your own edibles.



Grow Something !

A wealth of learning opportunities can arise from something as simple as growing plants — indoors or out. Every experience will teach your child valuable lessons about the importance of light, clean water, and unpolluted soil for growing living things. Go to the library and check out some books about plant care.



Reborn Treasures !

Create an art project box with discarded items in your home. Drop packaging, pieces of cardboard, scraps of colored paper, bits of yarn, and small pieces of broken toys into a box or basket and look through the box for supplies when you create your art projects.



The Secrets of a Tree !

Select a tree in your neighborhood to visit every month and write down the changes you observe. Bring along a tape measure to chart the circumference of the tree every month. Make collages that reflect the tree's appearance in different seasons. Talk with your family members about why it's important to have trees on planet earth.



Label Trees and Flowers !

Make your very own arboretum. Investigate what types of trees and flowers are growing on your property. Then stake weatherproof labels into the ground. Next, invite family and friends to take a backyard nature tour.



Reduce Electricity Use !

Talk to your child about the fact that energy is not an unlimited resource and that our lights, computers, TVs, and many other things we take for granted use up energy. Encourage your child to switch off lights that are not needed and to turn off the TV when it's not being watched.



Conserve Water!

Kids can be taught to turn off running water when they brush their teeth and encouraged to take faster showers or baths in smaller amounts of water.



Look Up!

What do you see? Cloud gazing can be a great way to tap into the imagination. Does that cloud look like a bunny, or maybe a seesaw? Take a few free moments to study the sky and talk about the creative things you see floating.



Get in Touch with Texture!

Gather outdoor materials such as a moss-covered rock and a variety of leaves and flower petals. Blindfold your child and have him describe the feel of each object with descriptive words that you'll record in a list. Then use these descriptive words to create a poem with your child.



Reading List

***The Magic School Bus Gets Recycled* by Anne Capeci**

Ms. Frizzle's class is holding a recycling drive. But when Phoebe loses her necklace, the kids hop on the bus to track it down. You'll never guess what happens when the class gets to the recycling center!

***The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss**

Long before saving the earth became a global concern, Dr. Seuss, speaking through his character the Lorax, warned against mindless progress and the danger it posed to the earth's natural beauty.

***It's Earth Day* by Mercer Mayer**

After Little Critter learns about Earth Day in school, he does everything he can to help protect the environment and save the polar bears from global warming, but he gets discouraged when his Climate Control Machine fails to work.

***Recycle That!* by Fay Robinson**

Tells all about recycling, showing the items that can be recycled, how to do it, and how the earth is improved by recycling efforts.

***Why Should I Recycle?* by Jen Green Illustrated by Mike Gordon**

Find out about all the amazing things you can recycle in this guide to protecting the planet. When Mr. Jones takes his class on a field trip to the recycling plant, his students learn what they can do with all kinds of seemingly useless items, from plastic bottles to old yucky vegetables.

***Encyclopedia of Planet Earth* by Anna Claybourne, Gillian Doherty**

***The Down-to-Earth Guide to Global Warming* by Laurie David, Cambria Gordon**

Irreverent and entertaining, *Down-to-Earth* is filled with facts about global warming and its disastrous consequences, loads of photos and illustrations, as well as suggestions for how kids can help combat global warming in their homes, schools, and communities.

***I Always Turn Off the Lights!* by Diane H. Pappas, Richard D. Covey**

Zak the Yak and the Kid Guardians teach children about conserving energy.



Resources:

<http://pbskids.org/itsmylife/family/greenliving/index.html>

<http://www.workingmother.com/family-time/6-family-friendly-earth-day-activities>

<http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/collection/global-awareness/green-living-family-guide-to-going-green>

<http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/craft-activities/100-percent-recycled-crafts>

RethinkRecycling.com

<http://www.nickjr.com/home/search.jhtml?searchterm=recycling>

<http://fun.familyeducation.com/earth-sciences/childrens-science-activities/32872.html>

<http://meetthegreens.pbskids.org/games/>

<http://pbskids.org/eeeworld/>

<http://www.bystephanielynn.com/2011/09/50-crafts-and-projects-using-recycled-repurposed-upcycled-cans-saturday-inspiration-ideas.html>

<http://happyhooligans.ca/22-things-make-cardboard-tube/>