

Earth Day is an annual event, celebrated on April 22, on which day events worldwide are held to demonstrate support for environmental protection. It was first celebrated in 1970 and is now coordinated globally by the **Earth Day** Network and celebrated in more than 193 countries each year. The first thing kids need to understand, is that we only have one Earth and it's our job to make sure it stays clean and healthy. Talk about all the different aspects of Earth (water, land, wildlife, atmosphere, humans) and how each play a role. Share some facts about the environment to show how earth is suffering. Once your kids hear all the ways Earth needs their help, they are going to wonder how they can help. Help them brainstorm ways they can be active in making positive changes in the environment. **Reduce, reuse, recycling** is one way to maintain the health of the environment. Theme for Earth Day 2019 is **Protect Our Species**.

SOCIAL

Read a Book about the Earth/Earth Day

Target: sharing ideas

Read a book about Recycling

Target: sharing ideas

Build a Recycled Robots

Don't throw away the cardboard boxes, yogurt containers, soup cans, Styrofoam containers etc. Work as a group to build a recycled robot with these materials.

Target: teamwork

<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/projects/makearobot.html>

Create a Recycling Center

Using plastic recycling bins or cardboard boxes, create a recycling center within your classroom. Get preschoolers involved in labeling, decorating and setting up the recycling bins in the room. As you label each box with plastic, paper, metal and cardboard, explain the types of items that might go in each one. Invite children to start sorting recyclables and continue to sort the items they use every day. **Target: co-operation**

Start a Compost Bin

Show preschoolers that food waste can be recycled too! Create a compost bin where children's meal leftovers can be deposited. Make it part of your daily routine to empty scraps into the compost bin and periodically transfer its contents into an outdoor composter. Use this opportunity to teach children about the composting process and how food can be recycled into nutrient-rich soil. **Target: independence**

PHYSICAL

Fine Motor

Recycled Tubes

Tape different sizes of cardboard tubes (paper towel, wrapping paper, toilet paper) to a wall. Have an assortment of pom poms for the children to drop through the tubes into different containers (egg carton, yogurt container etc.) **Target: grasping**



Balloon Stamping

Make sure that you use appropriate supervision with the balloons.

<https://www.iheartartscrafts.com/balloon-stamping-earth-day-craft-kids/>

Target: eye hand co-ordination



Earth Day Art

Target: grasping

<https://www.naturalbeachliving.com/earth-day-art-activities/Marble>



Marble Earth

<https://www.craftymorning.com/shaving-cream-marbled-earth-day-craft/>

Target: finger manipulation



Earth Day Goop

Target: texture

<https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/earth-day-oobleck-science-activity-earth-sensory-play/>



Gross Motor

Recycled Tower: Who can create the tallest recycled tower? See how many recycled boxes or containers you can stack before it falls over. Depending upon where you place the boxes, this activity encourages the child to squat down, reach high, motor plan and more. **Target: muscle movement**

Ball Toss

This indoor gross motor play ball game started on the stairs. Simply put the boxes on each step! Of course, any box or bin will do. You could also use PLASTIC BALLS, ROLLED UP SOCKS, BEAN BAGS, CRUMPLED PAPER and whatever else might work! We took turns throwing the balls into the boxes standing at the bottom of the stairs. At the end we counted the balls in each box, first by color and



If you don't have stairs, don't worry! Just set it up on the floor. Liam chose to line them up, but you can stagger them any way you like! We played the game the exact same way as on the stairs. Of course, we counted at the end too! **Target: balance**

Pop Can Smash

The pop can smash is done after we discuss recycling and talk about how some people use recycled items to create other things. Use empty pop cans to sort with and discuss their differences (make sure there are no sharp edges). Pull off the tabs to collage with (along with other recycled items you have). Then go outside we do the smash. Each child gets one (preferably two or more) empty cans and you show them how to smash them. Either by jumping on them or twisting them with their hands. They love it and think it's so much fun.

Target: balance

Earth pose Yoga

<https://www.kidsyogastories.com/earth-yoga/>

Target: co-ordination

Intellectual

Cognitive

Un-scavenger Hunt

This is an extended scavenger hunt that will help the children determine whether different items are good or bad for the planet.

Target: cause and effect

<https://www.easy-crafts-for-kids.com/earth-day-activities-for-kids.html>

Grow Carrots from the tops

Simple activity that children can do to watch a carrot grow from a discarded carrot top

Target: sequencing

<https://rainydaymum.co.uk/earth-day-blog-hop-new-growth/>



Recycle Game

Play this game to help kids practice which items can be recycled, and which are waste.

Target: sorting

<https://www.adventure-in-a-box.com/printable-recycling-game/>



Make your own recycled paper

Target: cause and effect

<https://climatekids.nasa.gov/seed-paper/>

Earth Day Seed Bombs

<https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/make-seed-bombs-earth-day-activity/>

Target: sequencing



Language

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Tune: The more we get together

Reduce, reuse, recycle

Recycle, recycle

Reduce, reuse, recycle

It's easy to do

Cause your trash
And my trash
Make up way
Too much trash
Reduce, reuse, recycle
It's easy to do.

Target: vocabulary

Recycling for Our Earth

(Sung to: "Mary Had a Little Lamb")

Hear the cans go crunch, crunch, crunch,
Crunch, crunch, crunch, crunch, crunch, crunch,
Hear the cans go crunch, crunch, crunch,
Recycle for our earth.

Hear the bottle go ding, ding, ding
Ding, ding, ding, ding, ding, ding,
Hear the bottle go ding, ding, ding
Recycle for our earth.

Hear the paper go crinkle, crinkle, crinkle
crinkle, crinkle, crinkle, crinkle, crinkle, crinkle
Hear the paper go crinkle, crinkle, crinkle
Recycle for our earth

Target: repetition

Water

Water's what we bathe in,
Water's what we drink,
Water keeps plants alive,
Without it fish would sink.
Water comes from rivers,
Water comes from rain.
And every drop that's wasted
Is just water down the drain!

Target: rhyming

Pick up Litter

(Sung To: "If Your Happy and You Know It")

If you see a piece of litter pick it up
If you see a piece of litter pick it up
You will make the world look better
If you pick up all the litter.
If you see a piece of litter, pick it up

Target: repetition

I'm A Piece of Litter

(Sung To: "I'm A Little Teapot")

I'm a piece of litter,
Pick me up,
Put me in the garbage,
Or recycle me,
When you do this,
You'll make the earth,
Much more beautiful,
For you and me,
See the pond all grimy,
Help clean up,
You'll see more happy faces,
Where ever you go,
You'll make the earth more beautiful than ever before,
You'll be able to hear it say, "Thank you!"

Target: vocabulary

Creative

Pond Life

Add dirt or sand and some water for pond water and add toy frogs, fish, etc.!

Target: sensory



Earth Day Sensory Bin

Target: sensory

<https://www.growinghandsonkids.com/earth-day-sensory-play-shaving-cream.html>

Recycle Rainbow

Target: creativity

<https://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2011/03/trash-rainbow-craft.html>



Water Bottle Bubbles

<https://www.projectsforpreschoolers.com/water-bottle-bubble-fun/>

Target: decision making



Emotional

Nature Indoors

Place grass, flowers, twigs, etc. and outdoor toy animals (birds, cats, etc.) in your sensory table!

Target: decision making

Earth Day Discovery Bottles

Create a variety of discovery bottles for the children to explore independently

Target: independence

<https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/earth-day-discovery-bottles-earth-science-activity/>

Start a Mini Garden

The children can create a mini garden in an egg shell.

Target: self confidence

<https://www.applegreencottage.com/2015/03/how-to-start-seeds-in-eggshells.html>



Earth Day Rice Krispies

¼ cup margarine

40 regular-sized marshmallows

½ teaspoon vanilla

6 cups Rice Krispies

Green and blue food coloring

Melt margarine and marshmallows over medium heat in a large pot. Once the marshmallows and margarine begin to melt stir in vanilla and Rice Krispies cereal. Stir the ingredients until completely mixed. Using a spatula, divide the mixture evenly into two bowls. Add green food coloring to one bowl and blue food coloring to the second. Stir each color. (Not all the mixture has to change colors. You can leave some of it white.) Allow the children to take a scoop from the blue bowl and a scoop from the green bowl and mash them together in a ball (Earth). Set the balls aside until completely cool. Once the balls are cool, enjoy your Earth Day treat. **Target: independence**

Grow Lettuce from Lettuce

<https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/growing-lettuce-from-stumps-kitchen-science/>

Target: self confidence

