

Wee Help At Home

Goals:

 To reinforce the practices of reducing, reusing and recycling in the home.

Background:

Reducing, reusing and recycling are learned behaviors. The only way to make them a habit is to practice them daily at school, at work, while traveling and in the home. It's sometimes the hardest to change a household routine – especially when adults are accustomed to doing things a certain way. As your Wee Recyclers learn to reduce, reuse and recycle at your facility, they can take these behaviors home and encourage their families to make them part of their daily routine, too.

Throughout the **Wee Recyclers Activity Guide** there are ways for you to encourage families to participate in recycling. The Parent Letters included with “Sorting Together at Home” and “Wee Recycling Center” are a start. Not only do these communicate to parents what their children are learning, but they also give them the tools with which to reinforce the behaviors that have been taught. The “Wee-kly Recycling Ideas” will also give families ideas on how to continually *reduce*, reuse and recycle in the home. Some activities are reproducible and can be taken home for children to share with their families.

Sorting Together at Home

Materials:

“Recycle – It’s Easy” directions (take-home)*

Recycling Labels (take-home)*

* Found in **Wee Recyclers Online Resources**, <http://dnr.wi.gov/eek/teacher/weerecyclers.htm>

Procedure:

Print copies of the recycling labels and “Recycle – It’s Easy” directions for each child found in the **Wee Recyclers Online Resources**.

Let your children color and cut out their own set of recycling labels. Send the labels home along with the “Recycle - It’s Easy” directions and the following Parent Letter.



Dear Parent,

Did you know that the average Wisconsin resident generates 4.7 pounds of trash every day? If you multiply that by 365 days per year, then by 5.4 million Wisconsin citizens, you will find that Wisconsin generates more than 4.6 million tons of trash each year. We are learning about recycling and reusing in order to reduce the amount of trash we throw away. We have learned that trash will eventually end up in a landfill and that our landfills are filling up quickly. Included with this letter is a direction sheet, "Recycle – It's Easy." We use this in the classroom as a guide for preparing recyclable items. We are also sending recycling labels home with your child. You can attach these to your own collection bags, boxes or carts. We hope that you and your child will work together to recycle the appropriate items and practice reusing whenever possible. Your child is eager to be a Wee Recycler.



Thank you,

Wee-kly Recycling Ideas

Materials:

"Wee-kly Recycling Ideas" (take-home)*

* Found in **Wee Recyclers Online Resources**,
<http://dnr.wi.gov/eek/teacher/weerecyclers.htm>

Procedure:

1. Help families adjust to the reducing, reusing and recycling routine by sharing with them the Wee-kly Recycling Ideas. These are in calendar format with 12 pages to correspond with the 12 months of the year. Each page is divided into four weekly suggestions.

2. At the beginning of every month, print copies of the appropriate calendar page for each child to take home and share with family members. The ideas for reducing, reusing and recycling are practical, money-saving and earth-friendly.

