

Make a Recycling Monster

This is another idea for involving children in creating recycling bins for your site using paper bags and discarded paper scraps. Cans, plastic bottles, and even glass can be put into recycling monsters, but if your recycling collection program requires it, be sure to sort the recycling before putting it out for collection.

Activity Goals

- To have fun making artistic creations that promote recycling

National Science Education Standards

Science and technology: abilities of technological design

Science in personal and social perspectives: types of resources

Materials and Supplies

- Paper grocery bags, two per recycling monster
- Glue
- Children's scissors

- Bin or box of paper scraps, such as magazine pictures, construction paper scraps, and fabric scraps
- Art supplies, such as glitter and paints

Procedure

1. Using two paper grocery bags, cut a large oval in the bottom of one of the bags. Slide it upside down over the other bag, so the oval is on top. The oval will be the monster's mouth.
2. Decorate the bag with fabric scraps, or use crayons or paints to make the monster's eyes, teeth, hair, and so on.
3. Place the recycling monster in an area accessible to the children so they can easily place their items for recycling in it.
4. When the monster is full, pull off the decorated bag, put the recycling out for collection and replace the inner bag.



TIPS

- Encourage the children to think about how they want their recycling monster to look before they get started. Offer a few suggestions, but be sure to allow for creative freedom.
- If you have enough bags, invite each child to make a recycling monster to take home.
- Be careful! Children will be so excited to “feed” their recycling monsters that they may recycle paper before it’s even been used!
- Add a pipe cleaner or other sturdy handle to make removing the top bag easier.

CONNECTIONS



Create monsters that resemble favorite characters from a book or favorite animals. Invite children to make up a “life story” for their recycling monster.



Choose a theme for the monsters, such as favorite colors or animals. Invite children to use that theme to inspire their decorations.

