

## Lesson Planning - Waste Reduction for Elementary Kids

Overview: The goal of this lesson is to introduce young children to the concept of waste reduction, emphasizing the importance of minimizing waste to protect the environment. Students likely already know the slogan “reduce, reuse, and recycle” but this lesson, through interactive activities and discussions, will teach students simple strategies to implement this slogan in their daily lives.

### Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the concept of waste and the impact it has on the environment
2. Identify ways to reduce waste in daily lives
3. Recognize the importance of reusing and recycling materials
4. Develop a sense of responsibility, and ability to impact the environment positively.

### Content:

#### Intro

- Ask students what they know about the topic before we begin any discussion.
- Start with a brief lecturing on waste and where it goes. (passive learning)
- Introduce concept of waste reduction and its importance (A video could be useful here - [Waste Management and Recycling Video](#) )

#### Discussion

- Ask students what the three R's are (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle). Try to let them explain what they are.
- Give concrete examples of each R and encourage students to share any anecdotes or thoughts with the class (active learning)

#### Activity

- Provide students with different types of waste (paper, plastic, sea glass, food scraps etc.)
- Have students categorize them into bins labeled for recycling, composting, and general waste.

#### Story Telling

- Read a short story that explains again the importance of waste reduction. Such as What a Waste: Trash, Recycling, and Protecting our Planet by Jess French.

#### Application:

- Ask students to make one or two doable “pledges” about recycling. For example, “I will put my orange peel from my lunch in the compost bin for one week” - have them mark down if they completed their goal after a set period of time.
- Also, create in your classroom a well labeled recycling, compost, and general waste bin to promote proper waste removal. Assign students responsibility over these bins (ie. making sure they are sorted correctly)

#### Reflection:

- Discuss with the students everything they learned. Compare it to what we wrote down when we first began.
- Ask students to share the pledges (if they are comfortable doing so)

#### To- Do this Week

- Complete your waste reduction journal where you note if you have maintained your pledge. They can write about what they found challenging, or easy, or just any experience they had.
- Assign a few children every day to monitor the classroom bins and make sure garbage is ending up in the correct spot.