**Student Recycling Program Training**

**(3rd – 5th Grade)**

**Length:** 75 to 90 minutes of activities

**Prep:**

* Make sure classroom can support PPT and videos
* Have 96-gallon receptacles, classroom, and cafeteria bins available for activities
* Collect samples of trash, recyclables, and organic waste from school lunches the day before (put in clear zip-lock bags)
* Bring samples of all signage, stickers, badges, sign-up sheets, and other printed materials
* Bring printed copies of activities
* Bring badge holders for Recycling Champion training
* Bring deskside recycling bins

**Activities:**

1) (10 minutes) Brief introduction to the program which includes PPT and samples of bins. Show recycling bins and samples of recyclables/non-recyclables during the discussion. Questions to pose:

* What is recycling?
* Why is recycling important?
* What happens to our stuff when we throw it away?
* What is a landfill?
* What can be recycled?
* What is food waste/organic waste ?

2) (10 minutes) 4 minute video about what recycling is and the basics as to what can be recycled and the three R’s https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VlRVPum9cp4 (video by SciShow Kids © 2016)

* Have students complete Video Note Sheet
* Have students share some of their insights from video based on activity

3) (10 minutes) Learn about recycling sorting activity

* Students will be broken into three teams. Have each team come up with a team name representing their group. Groups are: landfill, organic waste , recycling.
* Give each group a set of cards (each set is 3 x green, 3 x blue, 3 x black). If there are more cards than students in a group, give students multiple cards so that all nine cards are distributed.
* Using a round robin style, start with one group and rotate through the teams 3-4 times for the following activity.
* Use either physical samples or a PPT (included), show one item that is either recyclable, organic or trash. Rotating one group at a time, the children have to quickly hold up the appropriate card over their head before the teacher yells “freeze”.
* Score the cards before moving to the next team. Teams get +1 for each correct guess in their group, and -1 for each incorrect guess (black for trash, blue for recyclable or green for organic waste). If children move their arm up or down after freezing they lose a point. (For example, if a piece of paper is held up the children holding blue cards should raise them over their head. Students with a blue card raised will get +1, students with a blue card lowered will get -1 and students with a raised green or black card will get -1.)
* After completing 3-4 rounds, score the teams

4) (10 minutes) Explain classroom recycling and recycling monitor system.

* Explain how one student will be responsible each day to empty the contents of the blue recycling bin into the 96-gallon container outside the classroom. Have the blue recycling bin and 96-gallon container available to show the students.
* Let students know that they should look inside the classroom bin and again when dumping for items that are not recyclable. Any contamination should be reported back to the teacher and classroom.
* Questions to students:
  + What is contamination?
  + Why is contamination bad for recycling?
  + Show poster for classroom recycling and ask if children have questions/comments about it?
  + What are some things that might contaminate the recycling?
    - classroom party food, liquids, paint, glue sticks
  + Are there safety measures they should take?
    - don’t put hands in the recycling bin or touch things
  + What should they do if the recycling bin is contaminated?
    - Minor contamination, place in recycling bin anyway (pencil, chip bag)
    - Major contamination, do not sort, just put in trash receptacle and inform teacher/class of the problem and discuss how to resolve the issue.

5) (10 minutes) Watch Cafeteria Ranger Program Video – explain in advance that this is a similar program to the Recycling Champion program that (insert school name) is implementing and this will provide some framework for what they’ll be learning next.

* <https://youtu.be/WJvr5gnrqP4> (watch from beginning through 2:25 only. Video by CafCu Media © 2016)
* Explain Cafeteria Recycling (insert name) Program
  + Show badges and share the names of each position.
  + Explain that students will be sorting the trash, recyclables, organic waste , and stacking trays. Food waste will go in the green bin. Also share that the kitchen will be recycling food.
  + Show examples of weekly sign-up charts and explain that the goal is to share with other students how to correctly participate.
  + Ask for a couple of volunteers to demonstrate (act out) an example of what they should or should not do when performing their responsibilities (encourage thoughtful and positive reinforcement and discourage bossy, negative examples). Ask the audience to share what good things have been demonstrated and why and what negative things have been demonstrated and why.

6) (25 minutes) Learn how to properly sort

* Break class into three groups:
  + Group 1 is classroom students
  + Group 2 is students eating lunch
  + Group 3 is lunchtime helpers. Students will spend 7 minutes rotating through each station. Time includes 4 minutes to break into groups and explain and then 5 minutes for the activity and 2 minutes to reset stations in between each rotation.
* Create two stations.
  + Station 1 is in the classroom. Place various items on desks and tables that are recyclable and non-recyclable. Place a trash and recycle bin by the door. One group of students will be at this station. They will take turns selecting an item placed on tables and take it to either the trash or recycle bin. Two minutes before end of the activity, students will go through each bin and identify which items have been correctly or incorrectly placed in the bins and discuss how to improve.
  + Station 2 is outside in the hallway. Two groups will participate in this activity. One group will be monitoring bins and the other group will be disposing of lunch items. Have a table set up with sample lunch trays and bags that one group of students will use to go through, and properly dispose of items. The other group will put on gloves and monitor the bins and explain correct use. Two minutes before the end of the activity, have students review what is in the bins and discuss the results and how to improve.
  + Rotate
  + Clean-up

7) (5 minutes) Wrap-up

* Pass out pledge cards and ask students to take home and review with parents and return them on (date) for program launch.
* Pass out Owl Drawing Cards
* Ask older children to start sharing the word with the younger students and to act as good role-models and stewards of the program.

Activity: Watch the following video at home and share a fact learned at school.

Reading rainbow video tour of recycling plant

http://thekidshouldseethis.com/post/84528738617 (video by Tara Aperauch © 2017)