

4 Simple Ways to Teach Your Kids About Recycling at Home

This Earth Day, get the family talking about all things recycling. If you don't already recycle in your home, take this opportunity to open up the conversation. Talk to your kids about the importance of recycling and how it can help our environment. Did you know that [the average American family wastes about 150 pounds of paper per year](#)? Teach your kids about where paper comes from and how recycling can help save the trees and forests. And instead of having our plastic containers making their way to the ocean, talk to them about how we can recycle plastic to make it into new things.

Here are a few other ways you can start talking all about how to reduce, reuse, and recycle ...

1. Read up on It

A great way to break down the basics of recycling is with a book. Start off this Earth Day by reading a book about the topic — there are many you can choose from. After you've read it, talk about how you want to start recycling in your home and how it will help the environment. Here are a few books to help get you started...

- [*Don't Throw That Away!: A Lift-the-Flap Book about Recycling and Reusing*](#)
- [*Michael Recycle*](#)
- [*I Can Save the Earth!: One Little Monster Learns to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle*](#)
- [*Fancy Nancy: Every Day Is Earth Day \(I Can Read Book 1\)*](#)

2. Make Personalized Bins

Next, make recycling bins for paper, glass, and plastic. Let the kids decorate them however they'd like with images of what will go inside. This can be a great reminder and will help the little ones not get too overwhelmed. If you want, you can make a goal chart above each bin to try and see how much you've recycled in a week.

3. Make It a Game

Recycling can also be fun by repurposing it in your home. We took old water bottles and made them into a [classic carnival game](#) that the kids had a blast playing. It was a way for us to show them that we don't need to buy new toys when we can make them at home. This is a great way to get the wheels in their head turning for new and creative options.

4. Visit a Recycling Center

Last, but certainly not least, take a family trip to the recycling center. You can use this [recycling site](#) to help you find a recycling center near you. Meet the people that work at the recycling center and learn about where all the recycled material goes. You can also find out if there are ways you can volunteer as a family at the recycling center.