

16 Things to Make and Do With Your Recycling

Raid your recycling bin and try some of these fun activities. All of these ideas are family-friendly - as always, supervise where needed, make sure items have been washed if necessary, and be careful of sharp edges on tin cans and foil trays.



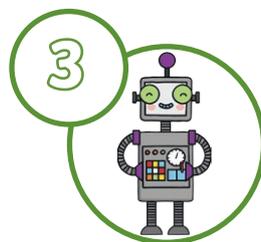
1

Pop Bottle Rocket



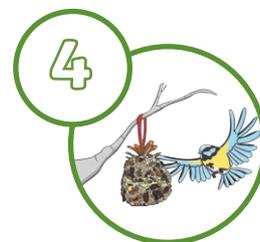
2

Tin Can Flower Pots



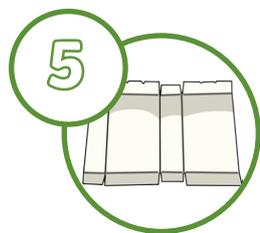
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Scrapheap Challenge



4

Kitchen Roll Bird Feeder



5

Cardboard Box Net Exploration



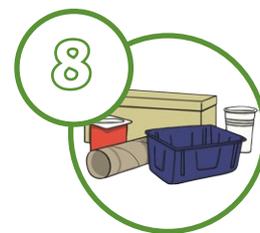
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Cereal Box Magazine Holder



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Kitchen Roll Seedling Starter



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Recycling Materials Sorting



9

Plastic Tray Floating and Sinking



10

Foil Sculptures



11

Recycled Sensory Bottles



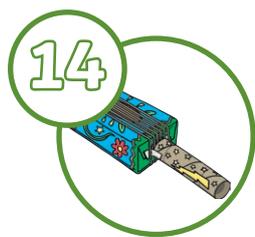
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Squirmy Bottle Water Fight



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Old Magazine Christmas Tree



14

Recycled Materials Instruments



15

Cress Head



16

Recycling Reminder Sign

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1

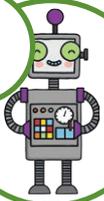
Make a rocket from an empty 2 litre pop bottle. There are lots of demonstration videos online.

2

Soak off the labels from tin cans and carefully knock a few holes into the base using a hammer and nail. Fill with compost and use to plant herbs to keep on the kitchen windowsill.



3



Set a 'scrapheap challenge'. Provide the kids with a selection of objects from the recycling, plus glue, sticky tape, scissors and so on, and challenge them to make a robot, car, castle or boat.

4

Turn an empty kitchen roll tube into a bird feeder. Click [here](#) for instructions.



5



Carefully pull apart the seams of an empty cardboard box and make the flat 'net' of the shape. A great exploratory maths activity for children. You can then reassemble the box inside out - the plain cardboard interior makes a much better surface for drawing or painting.

6

Make a cereal box into a handy storage container for paperwork. Click [here](#) for instructions.



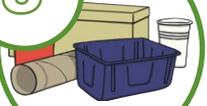
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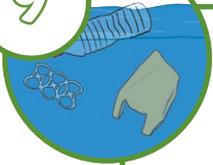
Use kitchen roll tubes as planters for starting seeds. Place the tubes upright in a seed tray and fill with compost, before adding seeds of your choice. Water it and put it in a warm place to germinate. Once the plants have started to grow, the tubes can be planted directly into the ground. This is ideal for plants like peas that don't like to have their roots disturbed.

8



Try investigating some materials. Sort the items in your recycling according to what material they are made of. Discuss the properties of each material and why you think it has been used. Have a look at '[Recycling Sorting Activity Sheet](#)'.

9



Use plastic and polystyrene trays such as those used to pack meat and fruit to investigate floating and sinking with pre-schoolers. Load up the trays with bricks and see how long before they sink. Or talk about what makes something float (e.g. it is light, waterproof, no holes in it and so on)

10



Sculpt with leftover foil. Fold a sheet of foil into a long thin strip, and then bend and curl it to make different designs. A simple idea is to wind it round the handle of a wooden spoon to make a curly icicle. Or try to make a human or animal figure.

11



Make sensory bottles for babies and young children, using empty plastic drinks bottles. Look at the Twinkl website [Sensory Play](#) section for some ideas.

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12

Have a water fight on a sunny day. Fill up plastic bottles with water and simply squirt the water at your opponent!



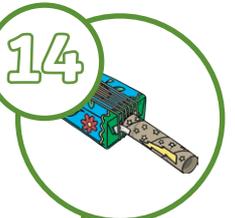
13



Make a Christmas tree out of an old magazine. Click [here](#) to find out how.

14

Turn bottles, pots and cans into fun musical instruments, by filling them with different materials and exploring the sounds they make. Try rice, dried pasta or beans, plastic bricks, sand and paper clips.



15



Make a 'cress head' with a small empty pot. Glue white paper around the pot and draw on a funny face. Fill the pot with cotton wool and dampen with water. Sprinkle cress seeds on top and put in a light place. Keep the cotton wool moist and see what happens.

16

Make a sign to remind your family what they should and shouldn't be putting in the recycling – stick it somewhere where everyone will see.

