

Help the Earth

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Growing Green: An Early Childhood Look at Ecology through Songs, Stories and Movement

Objective/Goal:

This experience celebrates the wonder of the natural world and encourages the protection of wildlife and habitat through the use of music, creative drama, and movement. It allows children to explore their connection to the families of plants and animals while sharing ideas and choices they can make to become environmental caregivers; at the same time, it enhances numerous curriculum goals such as cognition and identification, listening and verbalization, and motor skills.

Educational Impact:

- ✓ Vocabulary
 - ✓ Comprehension
 - ✓ Listening skills and verbalization
 - ✓ Gross and fine motor skills development
 - ✓ Following directions
 - ✓ Socialization
 - ✓ Environmental awareness
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Suggestions for use with the *Songs for Singing and Learning* CDs:

- ✓ "Help the Earth"

Procedure and Process:

Preparation

Teach the sign language signs, or create meaningful gestures, for "help," "earth," "learn," "birds," "bats," "habitat," "water," "forests," "trees," "breeze," "light," "walk," "bike," "plant," "clean," "do," and "recycle." Practice and review as many of these new sign vocabulary words as you feel they can handle before presenting the song. Use only the most important signed words in the song at first, and increase the use of signs, building sign vocabulary with each repetition of the song, appropriate to your children's ability.

Collect and display pictures of the animals, plants, bodies of water, and objects mentioned in the song, to visually familiarize the children with them.

Sing the song in the circle using the sign vocabulary.

Help the Earth

*What can we do to help the earth
Help the earth, help the earth
What can we do to help the earth
Help the earth today*

*We can learn about nature
About birds and bats
We can help to protect
Their habitats*

*We can learn about water
The ocean and bay
And the rivers that flow
Into them every day*

*We can learn about forests
The plants and the trees
Sit in the shade
Feel the cool, cool breeze*

*We can shut off the water
We can turn out the light
We can walk to school
We can ride our bike*

*We can plant a tree
We can clean the park
We can recycle
We can do our part*

*We can all help the earth
Help the earth, help the earth
We can all help the earth
Help the earth today*

Follow-up

First, experience the local flora and fauna with guided walks around the school and neighborhood. Encourage the children to explore flora and fauna in their own backyards and neighborhoods and bring in to school objects from nature for show and tell.

Next, expand the learning described in the song, learning through books and other media about animals that live in the habitats mentioned: ocean, bay, river, forest. Teach the children the importance of conserving resources by turning off running water and electricity. Each day, assign one child to monitor the use of water and lights in the classrooms. Call them the "Water and Power Saver" and give them a special hat or cape to wear. Plant a seed for a tree in the classroom and then allow all the children to participate in planting the tree outside.

