

Little Things Make a Big Difference

Let's show our children the power they have to positively influence the world around them, and show them that little things do make a big difference.

Watch this!

Play *A Whale's Tale*

- In this film, a boy notices plastic in his fishing net. We follow the net as it falls deep into the ocean and gets stuck on a whale. This whale sees the effects of water pollution and does his part to clean up the ocean. But he cannot do it alone and gets help from everyone in order to succeed.



Talk about it!

	What did your students take away from this film? Ask them!	How can your students relate this film to their own lives? Ask them!
Emotions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What was the boy trying to do at the beginning? How did seeing the plastic in his fishing net make him feel? What happened to the animals that were surrounded by the plastic? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you feel like pollution is a big deal or not? Have you ever been involved in a community clean up? How did helping make you feel? Did you see a big difference before and after the clean up?
Reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What animals were affected by the plastic in the ocean? How were the animals affected? Can one small piece of plastic garbage affect an animal? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you recognize the garbage in the film as something that you might find in your school or in your house? Do you think that it is okay to use plastic as long as you throw it away in a garbage can?
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The huge wale took it upon himself to clean up the ocean. Did it work? In the end, there were a lot of boats surrounding the whale. What were they doing there? Were the humans helping? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We all learn about the importance of doing our part to keep the world healthy. What have you done? What could you do? Cleaning up is not fun, but the feeling of helping others is. Would you agree with that?

Try this!

What can you do with a plastic water bottle?

Plastic water bottles have become one of the most common items that are found in the oceans. Learn how to reuse this item in creative ways.

- Gather plastic bottles from your recycling bin or ask students to bring them from home. Put students in pairs and give each pair two plastic bottles.
- As a class, brainstorm all of the various ways that this plastic bottle could be reused.
- Consider using the internet to find more ideas, and include things like:
 - Vase (cut off the top and decorate it)
 - Musical instrument (fill the bottle with dry beans or rice)
 - Pencil case (cut off the tops of 2 bottles, glue a zipper between them to allow easy access to the pencils)
 - Planters (cut off the tops and use the base to plant seeds)
 - Watering cans (poke holes in the plastic lids and fill with water)
 - Sprinkler (attach the bottle to a hose and poke holes in it)
 - Piggy bank (glue tops to the bottom to act as legs, place 2 dots on the lid to look like a snout, draw on eyes and glue paper ears to it)
 - Rocket boosters (turn two bottles upside down and attach them to each other, paint them silver and add red fabric to the opening of the bottle to look like fire)
- Now do it! Have each pair choose one unique idea and get to work to create something new.
- Display the reused items for the whole school to see.
- Add in a mathematics component by visually displaying how many bottles were used for these projects, thereby showing how much waste was reduced.

Little things make a big difference!

Show your students how much happens when *everyone* pitches in.

- In the film, we saw how all of the little pieces of trash made a big difference in polluting the ocean. Show your students that the same can be true when we do little good things to make a big difference for the good of others.
- Collect a number of plastic bottles from your recycling bin and distribute one bottle to each student.
- Provide students with white rice or beans to fill each of the bottles.
- Give students different colored construction paper and instruct them that they are going to make snowmen out of the plastic bottles.
- Be creative and use the materials to make eyes, noses, buttons, scarves, and hats.
- Go to another classroom in your school and have each student in your class give a snowman as a gift to another student in the class. Not only will they enjoy their new toy, but this kind act will create a bond between the students in another classroom. These little acts of kindness make a big difference.

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	What did they take away from this film? Ask your students!	How can they relate this film to their own lives? Ask them!
Emotions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was the boy trying to do at the beginning? • How did seeing the plastic in his fishing net make him feel? • What happened to the animals that were surrounded by the plastic? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you feel like pollution is a big deal? • Have you ever been involved in a community clean up? • How did helping make you feel? • Did you see a big difference before and after the clean up?
Reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What animals were affected by the plastic in the ocean? • How were the animals affected? • Can one small piece of plastic garbage affect an animal? • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you recognize the garbage in the film as something that you might find in your school or in your house? • Do you think that it is okay to use plastic as long as you throw it away in a garbage can?
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The huge wale took it upon himself to clean up the ocean. Did it work? • In the end, there were a lot of boats surrounding the whale. What were they doing there? Were the humans helping? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We all learn about the importance of doing our part to keep the world healthy. What have you done? What could you do? • Cleaning up is not fun, but the feeling of helping others is. Would you agree with that?

Try this!

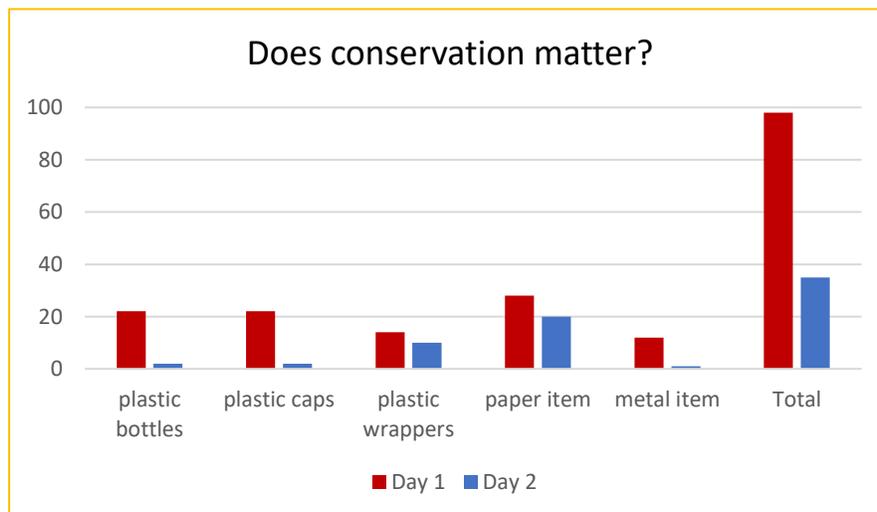
Act now!

We need to recognize how much of an impact we make on our earth, because all of our little things add up and make a big impact.

- At the beginning of lunch, ask your students to open up their lunch boxes/bags and pull out each item.
- Have each student count how many things will end up in the trash by the end of lunch.
- Tally each item.
- Make a chart and put the totals in Day 1.

	Plastic bottle	Bottle caps	Plastic wrapper	Plastic bag	Paper item	Metal item	Total
Day 1							
Day 2							
Difference							

- Ask your students to call out their number and point out how they contributed to the total number for that day.
- Ask them to think about what they could do differently to produce less waste.
- Challenge them to come up with ways that they can transport their food from home in a more ecofriendly way.
- On the second day, have them pull out their lunch and count their disposable items.
- Tally it up and put it in the chart on Day 2.
- What was the difference?
- Make this into a graph (see example below). This will show the visual impact of how your student's little things can make a big difference in the matter of one meal for one day.
- Think of the impact if it were over every meal for a whole week, month or even a year!



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Try this!

What can you do to help the problem today?

Help your child see that they can do something to help make the world a better place.

- In the film, it showed all of the things that were lying on the beach.



- Look at the image and ask your child to circle all of the things that can be found in your home.
- Open your refrigerator and count the number of plastic, glass, and metal items that will be discarded when they are empty.
- Come up with a plan to waste less by reusing more.

Reuse!

Help children find creative ways to reuse what you had intended to throw out.

- Pull out a plastic bottle from the recycling bin.
- Wash it and let it air dry.
- Tell your child that you are going to be making a piggy bank out of the bottle.
- Glue 4 bottle caps to the side of the bottle. These will be the legs.
- Draw 2 small circles on the top to act as the snout.
- Cut out and glue paper ears onto the top of the bottle.
- Draw 2 eyes on your pig.
- Don't forget to cut a slot in the top for the money!
- Encourage your child to use the piggy bank to save money, and the environment!