

Memo to Families:

The children in our center are involved in a topic of study titled "Taking Care of Our World." They have selected several different ways they can take care of our world on a daily basis, not just for a week or two. Invite them to share some of these activities with you.

We want to share with you ways you and your family can help take care of our world. Let's begin with these thoughts:

The earth provides us with food and water. It gives our children a place to run and play.

The world is precious to us, so let's take care of it.

The best way to teach children to be considerate of their environment is by showing them through examples.

- Contribute recyclable items requested by your child's center or school.
- Teach children that, just as they do not litter at home, they should do the same at other places.
- When you go camping, put out your fire properly.
- Turn off the lights when they are not needed.
- Use recycled paper.
- Use energy-efficient light bulbs.
- Use recyclable bags and boxes instead of plastic bags.
- Store children's toys in recycled cardboard boxes. Store like toys in a box and label the box with a picture that represents the items. For example, store all of the toy vehicles in one box and label the box with a picture of a vehicle.
- Recycle your clothes. Donate them to a local organization such as Salvation Army or Goodwill, to a store that sells second-hand clothes, or to a church or other groups in your community that distribute clothing to families in need.
- Donate your children's gently used toys to the agencies and organizations just named.
- Involve children in taking care of pets in the home. Teach them the appropriate way to handle pets such as cats or dogs so they do not hurt them.
- Involve your children in feeding the birds in winter.
- Donate newspapers to local animal shelters.
- Have a garden and teach your children to care for it. If there is no space for a garden, have pot plants and involve children in planting and taking care of them.
- Put brown shredded paper in your compost heap.
- Use shopping bags that you can make from fabric scraps or purchase, thus eliminating plastic bags which do not ever disintegrate in the environment.
- Use shredded paper for gift baskets and for packing of items for shipping.
- Stuff children's costumes with shredded paper if they need extra padding.
- Share dance costumes, school uniforms and sports gear with others when your children can no longer wear them or need them.
- Contact a local organization such as Salvation Army or Goodwill or a church or other groups in your community that distributes clothing if your family is in need of clothing.

**Take your children to a park or camping and enjoy the beauty of nature.
Point out to your children the beauty of flowers and trees and the wonder of a rainbow.**