

PACKAGING



Bag Lunch

Grade Level : 1

Subjects:

Science 2.2, 4.2

Social Studies 4.2, 8.5

Time:

one class period

Setting:

classroom

Materials:

a bag lunch for each child prepared by the cafeteria staff, a packaging journal for each child

Skills:

classifying

Vocabulary:

packaging
excessive

Sources:

Action for a Cleaner Environment

South Carolina Dept. of Health and Environmental Control

Watauga County

Recycling Curriculum Committee

Summary: The children will classify the remains of a bag lunch to determine what leftovers can be recycled and what packaging can be reduced.

Objective: The children will learn that a lunch can be packed without using excess packaging, or with only reusable packaging to create a "trash-free" lunch.

Background: Excess packaging - packaging beyond safety and fresh standards - contributes unnecessarily to the solid waste stream.

Leading Question: What packaging is necessary?

Procedure:

1. The children will eat a lunch, in the classroom if possible, which has been prepared by the cafeteria staff.
2. After eating their lunch, have children separate the leftovers into packaging materials and food scraps.
3. Examine the packaging materials. Decide which ones are necessary for freshness and/or safety. Sort these materials according to necessary/not necessary packaging.
4. Discuss the unnecessary packaging and brainstorm some alternatives to this packaging.
5. Separate the food scraps, putting the appropriate ones into the wormbox for vermicomposting or put the scraps in a compost bin.
6. Discuss ways to encourage students to reduce leftover food by taking smaller portions.
7. Have each child make a list or draw a picture of things in his/her lunch that were packaged excessively.
8. Have each child make a new list or draw a picture of a better way to package these items.
9. Discuss ways to pack a lunch so it is "waste free."

What Now?

1. Go to the grocery store with your parents. Take a close look at the way things are packaged. Record your findings in a special journal for packaging.
2. Share your findings with the class.
3. Make a family decision to shop more responsibly.
4. Consider starting an "offer vs. serve" program at your school. (See appendix for more information.)