Kindergarten

Knowledge 9

Take-Home Pages

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Our Planet: Taking Care of the Earth

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Dear Caregiver,

Over the next couple of weeks, your student will be learning about how to take care of the earth. Each day they will be listening to a Read-Aloud that shows the beauty of Earth and explains why we all have a responsibility to keep Earth beautiful and clean. They will also learn about the three words *reduce*, *reuse*, *recycle*, and different ways that they can help keep Earth a safe place to live.

Below are some suggestions for activities that you may do at home to reinforce what your student is learning about taking care of the earth.

1. Use the Word Responsibility

Your student has learned and will be using the word *responsibility* to talk about actions we should all take to keep Earth clean. Ask your student, "What responsibility do you have in keeping the earth a beautiful place to live?" Encourage your student to use this word in situations other than ones in which you talk about taking care of the earth. Ask, "What are some responsibilities you have at home? What are some responsibilities you have at school? How are they different from your teacher's responsibilities?"

2. How to Clean Up Earth

Give your student prompts, such as "What should I do if I have an empty soda can? Should I throw it away in the trash can? What about old newspapers? What should I do with them? How can I reduce, reuse, and recycle these items?" Using these prompts, have your student give instructions on how to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

3. Draw Nature and Its Resources

Have your student draw a nature scene, such as a forest, an ocean, or the sky filled with birds. Ask your student, "What natural resource is in your nature drawing?" Then ask your student what would happen if that natural resource was used up or polluted. Ask, "What would happen to the scene you drew?" Discuss with your student why it is important to conserve natural resources, such as trees, clean water, and clear skies.

4. Read Aloud Each Day

Reading to your student every day is very beneficial to their literacy development. The local library has many books about taking care of the earth, including books about conserving natural resources and recycling.

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Dear Caregiver,

Your student is continuing to learn about taking care of the earth this week. They have learned more about recycling and about different types of pollution in the environment. Today, they learned about a way to recycle food called *composting*.

Below are some suggestions for activities that you may do at home to reinforce what your student is learning about taking care of the earth.

1. Use the Word Solution

Your student has learned and has been using the word *solution* to talk about addressing the problems of pollution and waste. Ask your student, "Can you name a few solutions you learned about that help keep Earth clean?" Encourage your student to use this word in situations other than ones in which you talk about taking care of the earth. Ask, "What is the solution to the math problem two plus one? What is the solution to a dirty room?"

2. Recycle! Recycle! Recycle!

At home, have your student help sort the recyclable items into plastics, paper, glass, and metals. Keep these items in separate bins. If possible, take your student to a recycling center, and point to the appropriate bins as you place the recyclable items into them. As you do this, say, "Recycling helps to reduce trash in landfills. It helps to create a cleaner world."

3. Sayings and Phrases: A Place for Everything, and Everything in Its Place

Your student has learned the saying "a place for everything, and everything in its place." Talk with your student about its meaning. Use this saying at home or out in public to demonstrate how garbage has its proper place in a trash can, recycle bin, or compost pile.

4. Read Aloud Each Day

Reading to your student every day is very beneficial to their literacy development. The local library has many books about taking care of the earth, including books about conserving natural resources and recycling.

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5. Saving Water

When your student brushes their teeth or takes a bath or shower, remind them that they need to remember to conserve water. Say, "We need to conserve water, so that there is enough fresh water for everyone to use."

6. Saving Electricity

When your student is the last one to leave a room, remind them to turn off the lights to help conserve electricity. Say, "We need to conserve electricity, so that we can help take care of the earth."

Celebrate times when your student shares what they have learned at school.

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