

# Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Checklist

Getting to Half at Preschool is easy. It's simple to make the 3Rs a part of daily life in the classroom and show children the importance of protecting the earth.

This checklist will help you see how well your preschool is doing with waste reduction and give you some new ideas. You may want to make it your preschool's challenge to complete this checklist.

## 3R Education

Our preschool...

1. Recognizes the 3R hierarchy – reduce, reuse, then recycle.
2. Educates children about the importance of the 3Rs.
3. Keeps parents informed of waste reduction activities at preschool.
4. Encourages children and educators to reduce waste at home and preschool.
5. Plans awareness activities around special occasions like Earth Day, Waste Reduction Week, Compost Awareness Week, and/or Environment Week.
6. Has assessed how much waste we generate by conducting a waste audit.
7. Has had a Get to Half at Preschool presentation from MMSB.

## Snack Time

Our preschool...

1. Encourages all parents to pack a waste-free lunch or snack for their child.
2. Uses reusable dishes, cutlery, napkins, and dishtowels.
3. Buys snacks and drinks in bulk to reduce packaging.
4. Recycles all recyclable material.
5. Teaches children what they can put in the recycle bin.
6. Composts organic waste with a backyard compost bin or a vermicompost bin.
7. Teaches children what they can put in the compost bin.

## Craft Time

Our preschool...

1. Makes crafts out of recycled, reused, or natural material.
2. Has a collection bin for scrap paper and other craft material that can be reused.
3. Reuses containers for storing supplies.
4. Encourages creative reuse of 'garbage' items for crafts.
5. Limits the amount of new craft material we purchase.
6. Avoids purchasing over-packaged materials and supplies.

## Play Time

Our preschool...

1. Makes props for games out of recycled, reused, or natural material.
2. Shops for dress-up and play items at thrift stores.
3. Plays games that teach children about protecting the earth.
4. Plays outdoors as much as possible.
5. Limits games and activities that produce unnecessary waste.

## In the Classroom

Our preschool...

1. Decorates the classroom and bulletin boards with recycled, reused, or natural material.
2. Limits paper use and always prints documents double-sided.
3. Shares resources among teachers instead of ordering multiple copies.
4. Communicates with parents via the phone, email, and/or preschool website.
5. Donates useful items we no longer need.
6. Holds used-goods sales and/or swap events.
7. Uses non-toxic cleaning supplies.
8. Reuses and/or recycles paper.
9. Purchases paper and/or supplies made from recycled material.

Reuse is the second R. Reusing things again and again helps reduce the amount of waste we throw away and saves our natural resources.

Recycle is the last R. Recycling lets us turn waste, that could not be reduced or reused, into a resource.

Reduce comes first in the 3R hierarchy. Reduce means avoiding waste in the first place - giving the greatest environmental benefit.

Composting is nature's way of recycling.



Get to  $\frac{1}{2}$   
at  
PreSchool!