

Bin Buddies

Description:

A memory game where children must find matching pairs of containers and place them in the recycle bin.

Audience: 3–5 years of age **Group Size:** 2–16 children

Materials: Small recycle bin
Small garbage bag
Picture cards

Background Information:

- We can make the choice to recycle drink containers instead of throwing them in the garbage.
- We can recycle aluminum cans, steel juice cans, plastic and glass bottles, and juice boxes, cartons, and pouches.
- When we put a drink container in the recycle bin it doesn't go to the garbage dump. It goes to a recycling factory where it gets turned into something new.
- Recycling helps us make less garbage and keep our earth clean.



Drink Container	What It Can Become
Juice box or carton	A new juice box or a roll of paper towels
Plastic bottle	A new plastic bottle or a fleece jacket
Glass bottle	A new glass bottle or fiberglass insulation
Aluminum can	A new aluminum can or aluminum foil
Steel can	A new steel can or a car



Procedure:

1. Have the children sit in a semi-circle facing you. Place the garbage bag of cards and the recycle bin on the floor in front of you.
2. Tell the children that you looked in the garbage bag and discovered that the things inside could be recycled instead of going to the garbage dump.
3. Take each picture card out of the garbage bag, show it to the children, and explain that each container can be recycled into something new at a recycling factory.
4. Ask the children if they would like to play a game to help you get the items into the recycle bin.

- Place one picture card face down in front of each child. Tell the children to leave the card on the floor – they can't look at the card yet because it's a memory game.
- Pick a child in the circle and ask them to flip over their card. Tell that child to pick someone to flip over their card too. Ask the group if it is a match. If not (e.g. a juice box and a plastic bottle), tell the group to try to remember what is on the cards and then ask both children to flip their cards back over. If it is a match (e.g. a juice box and a juice box), they are Bin Buddies!
- Each time a match is made, ask the children to place their cards in the recycle bin and return to their place in the circle. Continue this way until all the matches have been made.
- Hold up the garbage bag to show the children that it is now empty. Tell the children that recycling drink containers helps make less garbage.



Adaptation:

With younger children (3 year-old groups), who may not be able to resist turning over their cards, try playing the game together as a group. Set up the game in a grid in the centre of the semi-circle and play as you would a traditional memory matching game, giving each child a turn to flip over two cards in search of a matching pair.