

Recycling

A very topical subject, becoming more important every day to those endeavouring to limit the pollution of the planet. This can be a trashy, untidy, unpleasant theme, but here are a couple of ideas to make it more enjoyable.

Have specific containers to make sorting easier i.e. bottle racks, crates, trugs
Think about 'packaging', this could create another multisensory activity; shredded paper, bubblewrap, polystyrene chips, newspapers for example

Use good quality, multisensory, recyclable items that can be explored in a variety of ways using their own particular qualities i.e.

- plastic bottles can be rolled, tapped, turned into puppets, or put seeds or pasta shapes inside to create shakers.
- Boxes can be stacked in towers and knocked down, hidden inside each other, squashed flat, used to contain other items.
- Egg boxes have a particular shape/texture, can conceal hidden objects and stack well.
- Shampoo bottles smell nice, coffee containers have a different smell. Have a lot of the same items (perhaps different sizes) so there are plenty to go round

Use a 'sorting' activity to get clients to differentiate between the items of rubbish - identifying their individual qualities through sight/touch/smell or the sounds they make when 'played' like instruments.

Encourage cooperative activities; passing objects to each other, helping to lift containers, Add singing 'work' songs or work rhythms to make the activity more fun.

With larger pieces of junk - carpet tubes, newspaper, plastic fencing, it is also possible to create exciting environments to explore....or even build your own!

Links

Plastic (Prop)

Paper (Prop)

Workshops - All at Sea, Panama Canal, Shanty Town

Videos

Sorting Rubbish

Recycling rubbish in nets