

Practice Makes Perfect

Wee Reggie and His Recyclable Friends



Goals:

- ♻️ To demonstrate, through puppetry, how children can teach adults about recycling.
- ♻️ To reinforce how to prepare recyclable items.

Background:

Once your children are introduced to recycling, it is simply a matter of practicing and reinforcing the things that can be recycled and how they must be prepared. Soon they will want to teach others. They may find it appealing to be able to teach an adult how to recycle. Reggie, Sue and brother Lou are Wee Recyclers who teach others about recycling through rhyme, rhythm and silly characters.

Materials:

Wee Crafts*

Large paper bag for Wee Reggie puppet*

Pattern for Wee Reggie puppet*

Materials needed to make the recyclable friends:

Newspaper	Markers/crayons
Plastic bottle	Scrap paper
Glass bottle/jar	Glue
Aluminum can	Scrap ribbon/yarn
Tin can	Scissors

* Found in **Wee Recyclers Online Resources**, <http://dnr.wi.gov/eek/teacher/weerecyclers.htm>

Preparation:

- ♻️ Make a Wee Reggie puppet from reusable materials. Use the pattern from the **Wee Recyclers Online Resources** or ideas from the puppet section of **Wee Crafts**.
- ♻️ Make the recyclable friends from recyclable items and materials. For each friend create a face on the surface of the recyclable item. Add other features and decorations if you wish. (See diagrams for ideas.)
- ♻️ Find a large, paper grocery bag and write the word "Trash" on the front.

Procedure:

The following is a short play. It should be repeated several times, each time using a different recyclable friend. You may want to introduce all of the recyclable friends in one repeated performance; or you may choose to introduce one recyclable friend a day. As the play is repeated, children will begin to anticipate Wee Reggie's actions and his message. Who will be pulled from the mysterious trash bag next?

Before beginning, introduce Wee Reggie and identify the "adult" character. It may be you or you pretending to be a mom, dad or grandparent.

After each skit, talk about how to recycle the featured item. Ask children to demonstrate what to do with it.

Going Beyond

- ♻️ After the recyclable friends are introduced, place them in the Wee Recycling Center for children to play with.
- ♻️ Supply children with materials to create their own recyclable friends. Encourage them to make up unique names for their new friends.
- ♻️ Help children make their own Wee Recycler puppet. They can use it to teach others about recycling.
- ♻️ Encourage children to make up and perform their own recycling puppet shows using the puppets they made.
- ♻️ Ask children if some things are okay to throw away. Explain that some things like chicken bones and facial tissue (Kleenex) should be thrown away.

Wee Reggie and His Recyclable Friends

Characters:

Wee Reggie
Adult
Assorted Recyclable Friends

Recyclable Friends:

Nadia Newspaper
Patty Plastic
Gavin Glass
Alex Aluminum
Taylor Tin

(An open brown paper bag sits on the table. It is labeled "Trash." One of the characters is inside. The paper bag starts shaking and rustling. From inside the bag comes a cry for help.)



Friend: Help! Help! Get me out of here. I don't belong in here. Help! Help me, please!

Adult: What's all this noise?
What's this all about?

Reggie: It's coming from our trash bag;
something's trying to get out!

Adult: Who is crying? Who can it be?
(Take the character from the bag.)

Reggie: A [name item] is crying; can't you see?

Friend: Boo-hoo, Boo-hoo! Oh what a disgrace!
I'm not garbage or trash;
I don't belong in this place.

Reggie: Why it's [character's name]!
What happened to you?

Friend: She/he put me in here, *(directed towards adult)* when she/he was through.

Reggie: Did you really do this? Did you throw him/her away?

Adult: I guess it was me; I did it yesterday.

Reggie: *(Scoldingly – children can shake their finger at adult.)* Haven't you heard?
Where have you been? [Item] can be recycled and used over and over again.

Adult: Oh [character's name] I'm so sorry,
please forgive me, too. I can learn to recycle,
just tell me what to do.

Reggie: Recycle – it's easy, as simple as can be.
Just give me your attention and watch Wee Reggie!

(Have Wee Reggie demonstrate or ask one of the children to demonstrate what to do with the recyclable item. Actual props should be used. You may want to pretend to do some actions and use "pretend water" to rinse cans and bottles. See character variations on the next page.)

Adult: Wow, recycling is easy, I want everyone to know.

Friend: Thank you for recycling; it's the way for me to go!

(Friend smothers Reggie with hugs and kisses.)

Variations:

Nadia Newspaper – Add her to a stack of other newspapers. Find a long piece of string, wrap it around the stack a few times and then tie it tight.

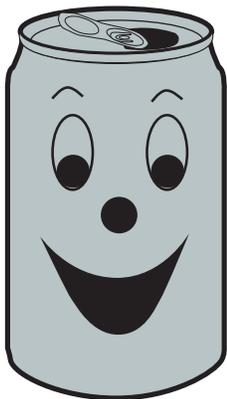
Patty Plastic – Unscrew her cap. Put a little water inside and swish it around. Pour out the water and look to make sure it's clean. Dry off the outside and flatten her with a stomp.

Gavin Glass – Remove the cover. Now wash him inside and outside, and don't forget around the rim. Dry him off both inside and out. Ask: What color is Gavin?

Taylor Tin – Rinse her out with water; make sure she is clean. Remove her label. Use a magnet to make sure she is tin. Does the magnet stick? Demonstrate how to flatten the can using a can other than Taylor.

Alex Aluminum – Make sure he is empty and rinsed clean. Flatten a can, other than Alex, under your foot.

Alex Aluminum

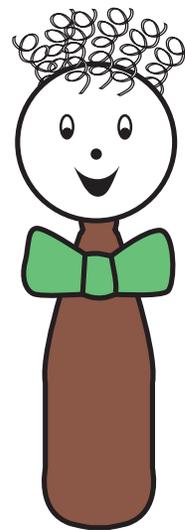


Aluminum can

Nadia Newspaper

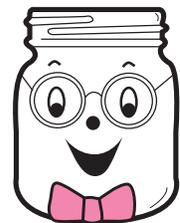


Old newspaper



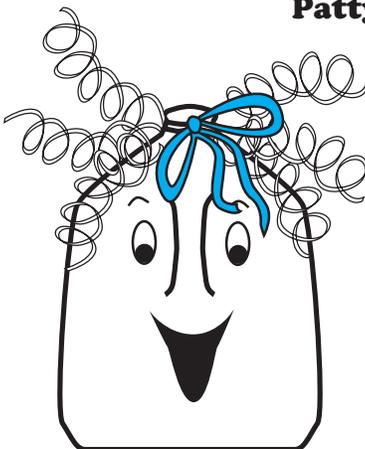
Bottle

Gavin Glass



Jar

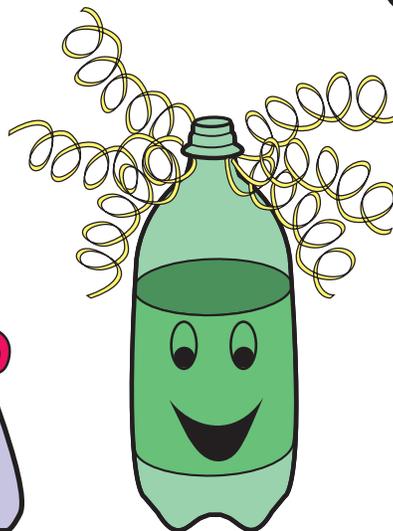
Patty Plastic



Milk bottle



Dish soap



Two liter soda

Taylor Tin



Soup or coffee can

Wee Reader

Goals:

-  To let children participate in reading a story.
-  To teach tracking from left to right.
-  To show recycling at home with family members.

Materials:

- "Wee Reader" poster*
- "Wee Reader" book (take-home)*
- Recycle Symbol page *

* Found in **Wee Recyclers Online Resources**, <http://dnr.wi.gov/eek/teacher/weerecyclers.htm>

Preparation:

-  Mount the "Wee Reader" poster on a piece of cardboard.
-  Laminate the poster, if desired.

Procedure:

- Gather the children for story time. Read the story from the poster aloud and point to the words and pictures as you go along. Help the children identify the pictures when you point to them. See if they can answer the question at the end of each verse. Thank the children for helping you read the story.
- Ask the children if they can help their family to recycle at home, too. Help children put together their own Wee Reader book to read with family members.
- Display the poster in an area where the children can practice reading on their own.

Going Beyond:

-  Make a Wee Reader book for each child to take home and share with family members. Print out the Wee Reader masters from in the **Wee Recyclers Online Resources**. If possible, print on both sides of the paper or copy page A and page B back-to-back to save paper. Likewise, copy page C and page D back-to-back. With each page, fold along the dotted lines and cut along the solid lines. Put the pages together in numerical order to form a book. Punch two holes along the middle fold. Thread a piece of yarn through both holes and tie the ends to bind the book together. Let your children decorate the cover.



I am a Wee Recycler,

my name is

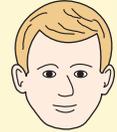


Sue.

I live with my



Mom,



Dad,

and brother



Lou.

-  Read the "Wee Reader" poster several times until children become familiar with the refrain. Use the refrain to play a game.

- The [item] is empty – what to do?
- "[Recycle] it," says brother/sister [child's name].
- What is it made of? Do you know?
- Into the [recycle] box it can go!

As a group, gather several recyclable items mentioned in the story and a "recycle box." Choose one of the children to stand by you in front of the rest of the group. Ask the child to pick up one of the items and hold it for all the children to see.

Line 1: Now, as a group, begin to recite the refrain filling in the name of the item that the child picked.

Line 2: The selected child says, "Recycle it," and the group finishes the line filling in either brother or sister and the name of the selected child.

Line 3: The group asks the questions and the selected child answers.

Line 4: Finally, the group recites line 4 and the selected child puts the recyclable item into the recycle box.

Repeat the game several times, selecting a different child and using a different recyclable item.