

Recycle Responsibly

There are many ways to use responsibility when taking care of our community and school. This project will focus on recycling as a way to choose responsible actions with waste in the school.

Kindness Concept(s)

Responsibility, Kindness

Project Timeframe

25-30 minutes

Required Materials

- Large Cardboard box for each participating class
- Bulletin Board Supplies
- Butcher Paper for tracking

The goal of this project is to have each grade level collect and recycle as many cans as they can throughout the week.

Have each grade choose a team name for the competition. Since many grades have multiple classes, they will need to agree on one grade specific team name. Create a master bar graph to track their efforts each day. One fun method is to use a hallway bulletin board to keep each group motivated by the progress of the other grades.

Give each participating class a copy of the Instruction Sheet below. The rules and procedures are provided. Modify them as needed based on your school specific policies.

Establish a time after lunch to collect the cans from each participating class. Count each class's cans. Add every class under one grade for a GRADE SPECIFIC total. *Example- there are three 4th grade classes. Add up all the cans from the three classes and use the total for the graph.*

Color in the number of cans for each grade on the bar graph. Repeat daily for one full school week!

This activity provides a great deal of math practice around bar graphs, addition, and subtraction. If possible, try to align the timing of the collections with your math time!

Identify a prize for the winning grade. Talk to the principal to see if there are school sponsored opportunities such as a pizza party that they can help fund. Other ideas could be extended or early recess, homework passes, or movie time.

NOTE: The majority of schools have some form of recycling in place. If not, simply modify this project to START a simple can recycling program. You can count the first week's efforts using the same plan as above.

Recycle Responsibly Participating Class Instructions

Welcome to our Recycle Responsibly Competition!

We are so excited that you decided to join us as we practice responsible choices in our school and community. Below are the rules and procedures for participating.

RULES:

1. All cans must be completely empty before being placed in your recycling box.
2. Both cans brought from home and cans used at school are acceptable for the competition.
3. No alcoholic cans are permitted.
4. Please place your cans in the designated competition box only. This will help us as we pick up the cans each day.

PROCEDURES:

1. Choose your team name with the other classes in your grade. We will add your name to the tracker board outside of Mr/Mrs. _____ 1st Grade classroom so you can track your progress! All classes in your grade will be working together to collect the most cans.
2. Using a box of your choice, decorate it for this competition. This will be the box that all cans are placed in.
3. All cans must be in your competition box by 1:00 p.m. daily. Our class will be collecting each class's cans around this time.
4. Your new total will be added to the tracker board daily. Feel free to come down and check out the competition to see how you are doing!
5. The final total will be announced at the end of class on Friday. The prize listed below will go to the winning grade with the most cans collected.

The RECYCLE RESPONSIBLY PROJECT PRIZE is:



DESIGNATED BY CASEL
AS A RECOMMENDED
PROGRAM FOR SOCIAL
AND EMOTIONAL
LEARNING.

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (**CASEL**) has been reviewing evidence-based SEL programs since 2003. Kindness in the Classroom® meets CASEL's SElect Program and is included in the [CASEL Guide to Effective Social and Emotional Learning Programs](#).

Kindness in the Classroom® met or exceeded all of CASEL's criteria for high-quality SEL programming. Kindness in the Classroom® received CASEL's highest designation for high-quality SEL programming.

<https://casel.org/guide/kindness-in-the-classroom/>

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