



# REUSE & RECYCLE



## Why learn about reuse & recycle?

- In our fast-paced society, there are many items to make lives more convenient (i.e. fast-food wrappers, cups, disposable grocery bags) – but these items we use everyday at home/school could end up in landfills
- It costs money to dispose them and creates environmental problems
- Using these familiar materials to teach children how to reduce wastes, reuse items, and recycle is an important and fun way to build connections with the environment and help it!

## What do we do with WASTE?



## Explore WASTE

- Find & talk about different types of waste at home (cans, food scraps, paper)
- Explore the RECYCLE bin together:
  - Are there things that could be safely reused for play/art creations?
  - What type of things get recycled? Encourage your child to sort
- Consider if there are ways to REDUCE your waste together

- Find the **recycle symbols** on the materials & record them
- Draw the **history timeline** of experiences (i.e. when plastic bags became popular & when they were banned in some states)
- Choose different kinds of *organic* and *inorganic* materials to **observe how LONG it will take to decompose** – record the process by drawing/writing!



## TALK about it...

- Questions to ask your child:
  - What kind of WASTE do we make at home?
  - Are all the food waste *composted*?
  - Can we throw cell phones/batteries in with other trash? Why or why not?
  - What could we do with old/broken toys?
- Talk about *reuse & recycle experiences* of family members – could look very different!
  - Were they taught about this knowledge when they were younger?
  - How did parents/grandparents reduce/reuse things around the house or in the neighborhood?
- Play “The RIGHT bin”
  - Collect *different* types of waste at home and prepare *several bins*
  - Make a GAME of sorting the materials into the RIGHT bin!

