

# Earth Day Activities

## more Earth Day ideas:

- plant a tree
- build a birdhouse
- go for a walk outdoors in a special place
- reduce, reuse, recycle—start a recycle clothing or toy exchange for families
- plant a small garden

## What is biodegradable?

Three weeks before Earth Day, discuss what is biodegradable and what is not. Choose several items to bury in the playground. On Earth Day, dig them up and see the changes (or not) the items went through.



## Fish pond ecology

To teach young ones about pollution, have each child bring in a piece of recyclable garbage.

Sit around a pretend pond (a large painted blue sheet of butcher paper) that is filled with paper fish. Tell a story about how the fish live in the pond surrounded by the beautiful woods. As people visit the area for picnics, they begin to throw their trash into the water. Have the children do this, one at a time. As more trash goes in, the fish of course have to come out. Soon the pond is full of garbage and no fish.

Now ask the children to help clean up the pond by removing their garbage and placing it into appropriate recycling containers. You can make these ahead of time by taping commonly recycled items (newspaper, glass bottle, plastic container) to the outside of a paper bag.

Everyone feels really good when the pond is clean and the fish can come back to swim there.

Adapted from [www.perpetualpreschool.com](http://www.perpetualpreschool.com)

## Help birds build nests

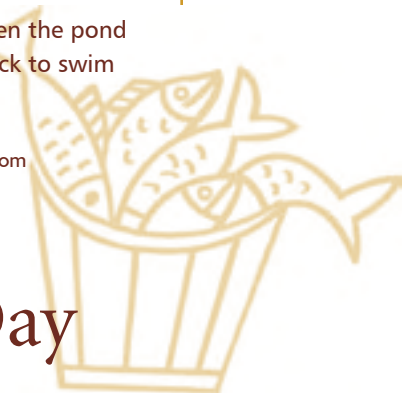
Lend a helping hand to the birds in your area by supplying them with simple nesting materials. All you need to do is fill a mesh bag (like the kind onions are packaged in ) with dried grass, short lengths of yarn and string, even stuffing from old furniture or feather pillow, or hair from your brush. Hang the bag in a location that the birds can safely access, watch them collect, you may be lucky enough to see their nest in one of your trees!

<http://www.amazingmoms.com>

## What do we throw away?

After lunch, collect all items that were thrown away, like plastic bags, wrappers, juice boxes or bottles, yogurt and pudding containers, plastic ware, paper napkins, any one-use and disposable items. Rinse out any dirt items.

With these items, make a group collage or bulletin board. At top of collage create the heading " Let's make our lunches trash-less." Talk to the children about all the items that were thrown away. Brainstorm ways to change how lunches are packed. Listen and record what the children say. The children come up with some great ideas and parents get to see how much garbage is thrown away in one day.



# April 22 is Earth Day

World Environment Week is June 1 - 7

