



TITLE I CALENDAR

Connecting Home and School

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LET'S CELEBRATE EARTH DAY!

Why should we celebrate our earth? Today more than ever it is important for us to help keep our planet healthy.

The first celebration of Earth Day took place on April 22, 1970. Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin was concerned about our environment and how it was becoming polluted. There were not many laws in place back then to protect the environment. He challenged the nation to come together. More than 20 million demonstrators took to the streets on that first Earth Day. Thousands of schools and communities participated and word began to spread to help save our planet. In 1990, the United Nations became involved since many of the issues were now common concerns shared by many countries and the movement spread across the globe to many nations. It's a day to celebrate and reflect on our planet, our environment and how everyone can contribute to help keep them healthy. Scientists talk about global warming, climate change and clean energy as being some of the major concerns we face today. These issues were non-existent forty-seven years ago.

How can we get our children to become global citizens and really help make a difference?

Three terms are often heard: reduce, reuse and recycle. If we teach children these terms and some simple ways to carry them out, they will be making a difference to help our world be a "healthier" place.

Reduce: Think about the amount of trash that you produce each day...now multiply that by 6.7 billion people on earth and the amount is staggering. To create less waste here are a few tips: 1) pack lunch in a lunchbox/lunch bag instead of a disposable bag; 2) reusable containers are a good alternative to sandwich bags; 3) bring your own canvas tote bags when shopping; 4) conserve electricity by shutting off lights when not using them; 5) save water by taking shorter showers and remember to turn off faucets tightly after washing hands or brushing teeth.

Recycle: Use blue bins to recycle glass, paper, plastic and aluminum. These items go to a recycling plant where they are changed into many new products.

Reuse: This is taking away old items and finding a new use for them. Here are some suggestions: 1) donate clothes that no longer fit; 2) donate unwanted toys; 3) turn old ripped clothes into rags.

Our children are the leaders of tomorrow and we need to teach them to keep our planet healthy while they are still young.



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