



CELEBRATIONS

BIG IDEA

Children begin to recognize events and routines that occur in a predictable order. Comparisons of family and community celebrations help children understand past and present events and identify similarities and differences between him-/herself and others.

Content objective(s):

The child will identify the importance of caring for our planet on Earth Day by keeping the environment clean. The child will use nonconventional writing to write his/her name.

Materials needed:

- ♦ Clean, used glass jar
- ♦ Stick-on label or masking tape
- ♦ Stickers, ribbons, glitter to decorate the penny jar



Lesson vocabulary:

- ♦ earth—tierra
- ♦ recycle—reciclar
- ♦ glass—vidrio
- ♦ plastic—de plástico
- ♦ metal—metal
- ♦ paper—papel

Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines (Revised) domains addressed:

Language and Communication:

II.B.3. Child provides appropriate information for various situations.

Emergent Literacy, Writing:

IV.A.1. Child intentionally uses scribble/ writing to convey meaning.

Science:

VI.C.4. Child demonstrates the importance of caring for our environment and our planet.

Activities:

1. The home educator models and demonstrates for the parent.



Model for the parent a discussion on why we celebrate Earth Day. Begin by talking about the family's home. Say,

Who takes care of your house and keeps it clean?

Allow the parent to help the child discuss what each family member does to help take care of and clean the house. Ask the child to demonstrate his/her responsibilities (if applicable). Ask,

What would happen if no one took care of your house?

Guide the discussion so that the child understands that everyone in the family is responsible for taking care of the house and that family members might get sick if no one ever cleaned.

Then move the discussion to the family's yard. Ask,

Who takes care of the yard? (Pause) Who puts away the toys? (Pause) Who cleans up the trash? (Pause) What would happen if no one took care of the yard?

Continue the discussion, moving to larger areas, such as the park and the streets. Ask,

What would happen if nobody cleaned the parks and streets and the trash kept piling up on the streets and sidewalks? (Pause) When it rains, all the trash would be carried to the river and the water would get very dirty. Would you want to drink dirty water? (Pause) Just like we need to take care of our house, we need to take care of the place where we live, the earth, so we can make sure the earth is clean and that we have clean water to drink.



Explain Earth Day celebrations. Say,

There is a special day to celebrate the earth, called Earth Day. Earth Day is April 22nd. It helps us remember to take care of the earth and keep it clean.

Introduce the concept of recycling. Say,

One way to get rid of trash is to recycle, or use things again. You can use a jar to store coins, buttons, or nails instead of throwing it in the trash. Or, you can put the jar in the recycle bin so the recycling truck can take it and use it for something else. Do you know what kinds of things we can recycle? (Prompt for glass, plastic, paper, metal.)

Take the child and parent on a "recycling hunt." Work together to identify things that can be recycled and things that should be thrown in the trash.

2. The parent works with the child.



Have the parent teach the child the clean up song:

Tune available at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1b4gSs0KhIU>

Clean up Song

Clean up
Clean up
Everybody let's clean up.
Clean up
Clean up
Put your things away.

The parent (with the home educator's help, if necessary) should sing the song and invite the child to join in singing. Encourage the parent to sing the song with the child whenever they are cleaning.



The parent can reinforce the concept of recycling by helping the child make a used jar into a penny bank. Have the child write/scribble his/her name on a stick-on label or masking tape and attach it to the jar. The parent should show the child how the jar can be used to save coins that the child finds around the house or around the neighborhood.

3. The child works with the parent's help.

The child learns and sings the songs when appropriate. The parent can help the child with the tune and lyrics.

Let the child decorate the penny jar, adding stickers, ribbons, glitter, etc. to it. The parent should encourage the child to sing the clean-up song when he/she is finished decorating the penny jar.

4. The child works independently as the parent and home educator watch for learning.

The child will know that there is a day to celebrate taking care of the earth. The child should be able to explain why and how we can care for the earth. The child should be able to sing the clean-up song when appropriate.

5. The home educator summarizes the lesson.





Finish by reviewing the content objective and talking about what the family learned today.

Follow-up questions to deepen the child's thinking:



1. *How would you feel if your neighborhood were full of trash?*
2. *What other areas do we need to keep clean?*
3. *Can you think of other ways we can take care of the earth?*

Ways to extend the lesson concepts:

1.  Have the child draw of a picture of him-/herself doing something to help keep the earth clean.
2.  Discuss all the things that depend on the earth (animals, plants—food) and connect to how these things benefit from a clean earth.
3.  Discuss migrant farm work and how the food that farm workers collect depends on a clean earth and clean water.
4.  Visit the public library and check out *Biscuit's Earth Day Celebration*, by Alyssa Satin Capucilli; *Fancy Nancy: Every Day Is Earth Day*, by Jane O'Connor; or *Earth Day: An Alphabet Book*, by Gary Kowalski. Read the book(s) aloud to the child.

Modifications:

If the lesson activity is too hard—

1. Talk about only the home environment, not the community.
2. Discuss only one or two materials that can be recycled (e.g., glass and paper).

If the lesson activity is too easy—

1. Expand the discussion of how trash left on the street can eventually be carried to the water and how the water is influenced by trash.
2. Expand the discussion of where and how trash is processed (landfill, recycling station, etc.).
3. Count the number of months until Earth Day.

Teaching tip:

Be aware of the family's religious and cultural values. Discuss them with the parents prior to teaching about celebrations.



CELEBRATIONS (LESSON 7)

PARENT PAGE

What we are learning:

Your child will identify the importance of caring for our planet on Earth Day by keeping the environment clean. He/she will use nonconventional writing to write his/her name.

Words to know:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| ◆ earth—tierra | ◆ plastic—de plástico |
| ◆ recycle—reciclar | ◆ metal—metal |
| ◆ glass—vidrio | ◆ paper—papel |



What to ask:

1. How would you feel if our neighborhood were full of trash?
2. What other areas do we need to keep clean?
3. Can you think of other ways we can take care of the earth?

What else to do:

1. Have your child draw a picture of him-/herself doing something to help keep the earth clean.
2. Discuss all the things that depend on the earth (animals, plants—food) and connect to how these things benefit from a clean earth.
3. Discuss migrant farm work and how the food that farm workers collect depends on a clean earth and clean water.
4. Visit the public library and check out *Biscuit's Earth Day Celebration*, by Alyssa Satin Capucilli; *Fancy Nancy: Every Day Is Earth Day*, by Jane O'Connor; or *Earth Day: An Alphabet Book*, by Gary Kowalski. Read the book(s) aloud to your child.

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