

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – WASTE

INFORMATION FOR EDUCATORS

Consumption

We all love having new stuff. But does it matter if it's not new new? Isn't it still new if it's just new to you? How new does it need to be? What if you knew it wasn't new? What are we talking about...? We're talking about sharing or swapping! Swapping is a simple form of exchange, where people trade one item for another. Choosing to swap unwanted items, rather than throwing them away, is great for the environment (and your budget) because it saves:

- Items from ending up in landfill and taking up valuable space
- Energy and resources that would have been used to dispose of that item
- Money because there is no need to buy new things

Switching our habits from shopping to swapping or buying second-hand can make a BIG difference to the amount of waste we create.

There are lots of opportunities for your service to get involved. You could set up swaps amongst your networks, particularly if you can tap in to resources through families or your local community. You might have enough recycled paper, but you might know someone else needs some, and they might have a heap of recycled boxes that you might desperately need for your next big project.

You can also mix things up if you have a few rooms in your child care centre or preschool. Swapping toys and books between rooms can bring excitement and 'newness' to your space. And next time you are tempted by the big fat shiny catalogue on the bookshelf, think about heading to your local op shop or asking families for things you might need, you never know what treasures you might come across.

You can also encourage families to get in on the action by providing a clothes, toys, books or magazine swapping area in your foyer, or run a swap party as a great fundraising event! You can also encourage families to join local toy libraries, visit the library, and link in to local charities collecting good quality preloved items for those in need.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – WASTE

Waste and recycling

Recycling is one of the easiest ways of being green. All it takes is putting the right thing in the right bin. But why do it? Well there are a number of reasons and they're all very important:

- All the raw materials required to make any of the goods that we use come from resources that are finite, meaning that once they run out you won't be able to get them back. Recycling means we can use these items over and over again.
- Getting the raw materials uses more energy than recycling. In the case of aluminium cans for example, making a can from recycled materials rather than from raw materials saves 95% of the energy that is used when making the can from scratch. What about paper? Sure we can always grow more trees to make more paper but growing more trees requires water and energy, and if trees are grown just for paper this means less water and energy for the natural environment.
- Recycling reduces the amount of waste going to landfill. The less waste in landfill is less waste in our environment which is better for everyone.



However, there are certain 'rules' about what can be recycled and what can't be recycled. If you're uncertain what works where you are check with your local council about what they accept for recycling. Generally speaking paper, cardboard, milk cartons, glass, and plastic water and soft drink bottles are fine. Plastics recycling can be more tricky: plastic packaging will typically have a recycling symbol with a number - your council will be able to tell you which numbers are recycled in your area.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – WASTE

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

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Switching our habits from shopping to swapping or buying second-hand can make a BIG difference to the amount of waste we create.

There are lots of opportunities for you to get involved. You could set up swaps amongst your friends or family. You might have enough recycled paper, but you might know someone else needs some, and they might have a heap of recycled boxes that you might desperately need for your next big project.



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