

Investigating the Garbage Truck

Age: Preschool-age (3-4 years)

This activity helps your child's development in this domain: Language and Literacy

What You Need:



- Books about: the garbage truck, the landfill/transfer station, and/or recycling
- A blank monthly calendar and markers or crayons

What To Do:

1. Join your child in watching the garbage truck collect your trash, allowing her to watch for several days while commenting on your observations. You might say, "Today he is collecting our recycled waste."
2. Listen carefully to the questions your child asks. Read books or show her children's videos about the garbage truck.
3. Keep a monthly calendar to tally: the days the garbage truck collected your family's trash, the color of the bin, and the time the trash was collected.
At the end of the month, talk about her findings.
4. If possible, take your child to your community dump or transfer station so she can see first-hand where the trash goes and what the workers do with it.
Talk about what she sees, hears, and smells.
5. Have her draw a picture or act out her experience using toy vehicles, roads, and newspaper/recyclables to represent trash, and have her explain it to you.



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6. Talk about things she learned and listen for questions she may still have.

For example, if she is curious about recycling, give her hands-on opportunities to explore this topic further.

