



Eco-Friendly Tinkering: Building Sustainable Objects

Activity sheet

- **Target group:** 10+ years
- **Duration:** about 40 minutes for each activity
- **Material needed:**
 - Sustainable materials such as recycled paper, cardboard, fabric scraps, and natural materials like sticks, leaves, and twine
 - Scissors, glue, tape, markers, and other craft supplies
 - Examples of eco-friendly objects for inspiration (e.g., sustainable calendars, scarecrows, reusable bags)
- **Key competence:** Daily life skills

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The Eco-Friendly Tinkering activities offer children an engaging way to learn about sustainability while honing their creativity and craftsmanship skills. By using recycled and sustainable materials to build objects, children gain a deeper understanding of the importance of environmental stewardship and are empowered to make eco-friendly choices in their daily lives. The general objective



is to introduce children to the concept of sustainability and eco-friendly practices through hands-on activities. Encourage creativity, problem-solving, and innovation by allowing children to tinker and build objects using recycled and sustainable materials.

IMPLEMENTATION



1. Sustainable Calendar Making (30 minutes):

- Provide children with recycled paper, cardboard, and markers.
- Guide them in creating their own sustainable calendars using eco-friendly materials.
- Encourage them to decorate each month with drawings or collages depicting seasonal themes or eco-friendly practices.
- Discuss the importance of using sustainable materials and reducing waste in daily life.

2. Scarecrow Construction (40 minutes):

- Gather natural materials such as sticks, straw, old clothes, and fabric scraps.
- Instruct children to work together to build a scarecrow using these materials.
- Encourage them to get creative with their designs, considering factors like size, shape, and stability.
- Discuss the role of scarecrows in sustainable farming practices and their importance in reducing the need for harmful pesticides.



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3. Sustainable Bag Design (40 minutes):

- Provide children with fabric scraps, old t-shirts, or reusable bags as a base.
- Guide them in designing and decorating their own sustainable bags using eco-friendly materials like fabric paint, markers, or embroidery thread.
- Discuss the environmental benefits of using reusable bags instead of single-use plastic bags.
- Encourage children to personalise their bags with eco-friendly messages or symbols representing sustainability.



OTHER SUGGESTED ACTIVITY

Create and Retell: Alice in Wonderland with Recycled Materials

Engage children in a creative and eco-friendly project by having them build characters from "Alice in Wonderland" using recycled materials. They will use items like cardboard, plastic bottles, and fabric scraps to craft characters such as Alice, the Mad Hatter, and the Queen of Hearts. Once the characters are made, children will retell the story using their creations, either as puppets or through a kamishibai, a traditional Japanese storytelling method with illustrated scenes. This activity not only fosters creativity and fine motor skills but also enhances vocabulary, narrative abilities, and environmental awareness.

POTENTIAL FOR AAC SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Eco-Friendly Tinkering: Building Sustainable Objects is an engaging activity that not only introduces children to sustainability and eco-friendly practices but also serves as a valuable tool for AAC and speech development. By allowing children to tinker and create objects using recycled and sustainable materials, this activity offers concrete learning experiences that can be easily represented through visual supports like pictograms. Through hands-on exploration and collaboration, children using AAC systems can develop their vocabulary, comprehension, and communication skills within the context of sustainability. Furthermore, the activity promotes social interaction, creativity, and problem-solving, providing AAC users with meaningful opportunities to engage in conversation and express their ideas and designs. Overall, Eco-Friendly Tinkering



offers a holistic approach to AAC development, fostering both language and ecological awareness in an interactive and inclusive environment.



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