



Ecology AAC: Waste & Recycling Pictograms AAC Tool

Material needed:

- Paper or cardstock
- Markers or digital drawing tools
- Printer (optional)

Key competence: Daily life skills

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The objective of this tool is to provide visual support for understanding different types of waste and recycling practices within the theme of **ecology**. By using pictograms, it aims to facilitate communication and comprehension of eco-friendly behaviours and waste management concepts. It promotes awareness and understanding of the environmental impact of different waste types and provides a visual reference for children with communication difficulties to express their preferences or concerns regarding waste disposal.



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**Plural
Words**

HOW TO USE IT

- 1. Introduction:** Introduce the AAC tool and explain its purpose in facilitating communication about waste management and recycling.
- 2. Identify Waste Types:** Present each pictogram representing different waste types, such as plastic, paper, glass, organic waste, electronic waste, and hazardous waste.
- 3. Discuss Recycling Practices:** Describe the recycling practices associated with each waste type using the corresponding pictograms. For example, explain that a happy plastic bottle jumping into a recycling bin signifies recycling plastic waste.
- 4. Address Waste Rejection:** Discuss the consequences of improper waste disposal by showing pictograms of rejected waste items, such as a sad plastic bottle with a cross over it.
- 5. Encourage Communication:** Encourage children to use the AAC tool to express their preferences, concerns, or questions about waste management and recycling practices.
- 6. Promote Learning:** Use the AAC tool as a visual aid during educational activities or discussions about ecology and daily life.



HOW TO CREATE IT

Creating the Tool involves several steps to make it effective:

First, **Design Pictograms** by creating images for each type of waste and recycling action using drawing or design software. Several websites like Canva or Flaticon offer free or paid services for generating pictograms quickly and easily, or there are also mobile applications available for both iOS and Android devices that allow users to create pictograms directly on their smartphones or tablets.

Then, **Add Visual Elements** to make the pictures clearer, using symbols or signs that represent each waste type and recycling practice.

Next, decide whether to **Print** the pictograms on paper or cardstock for physical use, or **Display** them digitally on a screen or device for interactive use.

Lastly, **Organise and Arrange** the pictograms on a communication board in a logical and accessible way, making it easy for children to find and use them whenever needed.



Here an example using Flaticon's free selection:



Here other suggestions for creating your own eco-pictograms!

Pictogram "Plastic":

Recycling: Show a happy plastic bottle jumping into a recycling bin.

Rejection: Show a sad plastic bottle with a cross over it.

Pictogram "Paper":

Recycling: Show a smiling piece of paper being tossed into a recycling bin.

Rejection: Show a crumpled piece of paper with a cross over it.

Pictogram “Glass”:

Recycling: Show a cheerful glass bottle happily sitting inside a recycling bin.

Rejection: Show a broken glass bottle with a cross over it.

Pictogram “Organic Waste”:

Recycling: Show a compost bin with green leaves and a smiling apple inside.

Rejection: Show a sad banana peel with a cross over it.

Pictogram “Electronic Waste”:

Recycling: Show a cheerful laptop with a recycling symbol on its screen.

Rejection: Show a frowning old phone with a cross over it.

Pictogram “Hazardous Waste”:

Recycling: Show a happy barrel of hazardous waste being safely disposed of.

Rejection: Show a skull and crossbones on a barrel with a cross over it.

