



LITTER

INFORMATION SHEET

Do You Know?

Keeping our earth clean is the responsibility of every individual. Each of us must be aware of our own behaviour and how it affects the environment.

We must also develop a sense of caring and ownership for the world in which we live – its air, water, land and all of its inhabitants. We need to teach this to our children, too.

Even children, who often feel that what they do has little or no affect, can have a positive influence on the environment by helping to reduce the amount of litter and pollution.

Litter is anything (wrappers, packaging, paper, bottles, cans, etc.) that is left on the ground or where it does not belong.

Litter does not look nice and it can harm plants and animals living in nature.

What is Litter?

Litter is nothing but a piece of waste or rubbish that has been disposed improperly, without consent and at the wrong location. Littering simply means throwing away objects on the ground or leaving them lying on the ground instead of disposing them at garbage can, recycling bin or trash container.

The waste that originates from houses, industries and factories should be placed either in a recycling bin, used for compost or placed at a waste disposal centre.

Dropping litter shows a lack of respect for your friends and neighbours, and spoils the community for everybody else.

As well as making places look messy, litter can attract rats and insects, which can spread diseases!

Facts and Figures

- ◆ 9 billion tons of litter ends up in the ocean every year.
- ◆ 75% of people admitted that they have littered in the past 5 years.
- ◆ The most common object found during a litter clean-up is fast food waste
- ◆ Litter can hurt your pets – over 70,000 pets and wild animals are hurt in Britain every year because of litter.
- ◆ Litter costs us money – littering means it costs tax payers £858 million a year, just to clean the streets of England!
- ◆ Littering harms the seas too, only about 20% of ocean pollution comes from activities at sea. Activities on land contribute most of the remaining 80%

Easy Ways To Prevent Litter

1. **Set an example**
2. **Pick up one piece of litter every day and have a designated litter day each week**
3. **Stop buying bottled water and drink tap water**
4. **Recycle waste**
5. **Make children aware of the importance of not leaving rubbish behind and throwing things away**
6. **Get children involved**
7. **Reuse items or donate to charity**
8. **Purchase items with recycled packaging**



LITTER

ACTIVITY SHEET 1

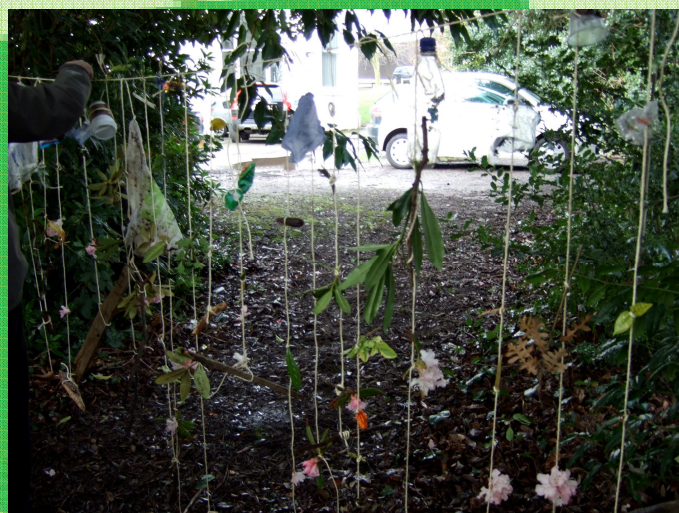
LEADING A LITTER PATROL

Find an area nearby that is littered, or for learning purposes, you can temporarily place litter on the playground to show children what litter looks like.

Take the children outside and ask them to observe the area.

Ask: What do you see? Do you see anything that does not belong here? How do you think litter looks? How does seeing litter make you feel?

This is an opportunity to talk about litter being not nice to look at, unsafe, unhealthy and dangerous for plants and animals.



Resources Required

Risk Assessment

Garbage bags

Heavy gloves

Newspapers

Activity

Picking up litter can be a lot of fun. Make your litter hunt a big adventure. Outfit a small group of children with gloves and special litter-hunting hats. (Help the children make these hats from folded newspaper.) Create special litter bags from paper or plastic grocery bags to hold litter that they capture.

Get excited about hunting for and capturing litter. Ask your children where they think litter may be hiding. Take them outside.

Talk about good "hunting" techniques, like looking under, behind and around things. Sneak up on the litter and capture it. Make sure that glass and metal are carefully handled with gloves. Put the captured litter in the litter bag and bring it back to your classroom.

Afterwards, empty the litter bags onto a newspaper covered floor to see what was collected and talk about the rubbish. What is it? What was it used for? Who may have used it? Why might someone have left it? Where should it have gone? Can it be recycled?

0—2 CONSIDERATION

Children need to observe good practice from staff and older children in order to develop good litter habits. Food that causes minimal litter should be promoted.

For example, consider fruit only snack time in order to reduce litter production.

Settings should promote breastfeeding to reduce litter produced from powdered milk cartons.