

# Mini Park Rangers



## Parent's notes for reuse and recycling

### Let's talk reuse and recycling

Recycling and reusing products can become part of our everyday practice for us all. It is a great way to reduce our footprint on the environment and encourages our children to think about rubbish in a different way.

### On your next walk with you Mini Park Ranger:

Take a rubbish bag and some gloves and collect any litter you see and take it home with you.

- What can go in your recycling bin?
- Can any cans or bottle be taken to a return & earn depot?
- What has to go into the waste bin?
- Can anything be composted?
- Could anything be re-used?

### Growing seeds in a sandwich bag

#### What you will need:

- A washed, clean & dry sandwich (ziplock) bag
- A square of paper towel (or similar)
- A spray bottle with water in it
- Your seeds of choice
- A marker pen (optional)

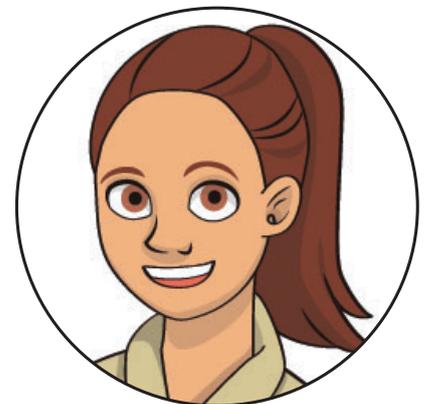


#### What to do:

- Fold the square of paper towel in half & spray lightly with water, fold again into quarters & spray lightly again. The paper towel should be moist, but not dripping wet.
- Cover half of the folded sheet of paper with the seeds. Ensure they are spaced & not touching.
- Fold the paper towel again to enclose the seeds into a pillow or seed sandwich. Press lightly to secure them between the paper towel on both sides.
- Slide the paper towel seed sandwich into the sandwich bag. Spray a little before sealing.
- Label the sandwich bag with the marker pen (optional).
- Set the bags in a warm place to germinate for up to two weeks, checking the seeds every couple of days. The seeds will swell and the short sprouts will form.
- When the sprouts appear, immediately move the sprouted seeds into a small pot, seedling tray or into a garden bed to continue growing.

When your seeds are planted out into a pot, place them where they will get some sunshine every day. Remember to check them regularly to see if they need water. Mini Park Rangers can look after their seedlings by spraying with a water bottle regularly.

A Mini Park Ranger cares for all living things.



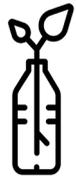
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## Make a terrarium in a recycled bottle

Creating a terrarium in a recycled bottle, is a great activity for your child. A terrarium is mini garden of small plants growing in a container. It's a great example of how water in the terrarium is constantly recycled, passing from liquid form to gas and back again. As the moisture in the air condenses on the walls, it returns to the soil and is absorbed by the plants roots. It also creates an opportunity for Mini Park Rangers to enjoy watching the plants grow and change without having to worry about watering them. It's a great winter activity when playing in the garden may not be possible.

### What you will need:

- A recyclable plastic drink bottle (1.25l or 2l)
- A small gardening trowel
- 2-3 small plants, indoor or succulents are perfect.
- Small stones, gravel or small rocks
- Potting soil (if possible, containing slow release fertilizer)
- Scissors to cut the drink bottle (for adult use)
- Gardening charcoal (optional)
- A plastic animal figurine (optional)
- Children's garden gloves (optional)

### What to do

- Wash, rinse and dry your bottle well. Ask an adult to cut the top off the plastic drink bottle, approximately 1/3 down from the cap. Leave the cap in place and do not throw it away.
- Cover the bottom of the container with small gravel/stones for drainage. This allows water to drain from the soil.
- The next level should be your potting soil, fill your container 1/3 to 1/2 full with moist potting mix using your gardening trowel. Allow enough space to plant your plants. Use potting soil rather than soil from your garden to prevent mould, fungi or weeds being transferred from your garden.
- Add your plants. Poke a small hole in the soil, plant your plant and add a little water. Choose plants that are small, slow-growing and thrive in humid environments. Succulents, jade, ferns, peace lilies are all great choices.
- Ensure you can see each of the plants when looking into your terrarium. You can experiment with different plants, seeds, seedlings and cuttings.
- Once you have your plants planted, decorate the area around them using the left over rocks, a plastic animal figurine, or any small objects to decorate. Add charcoal pieces (optional) on top of the soil, and between the plants.
- Attach the lid carefully back on to your terrarium and put it somewhere warm, with indirect sunlight. On a windowsill, or in the bathroom are great options.
- Check on your terrarium regularly. Keep the lid on and add water when the habitat looks dry.
- Always wash your hands with soap and water after spending time in the garden, and building your terrarium.



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