



Fun Time

WAYS YOU CAN TEACH YOUR KIDS TO TAKE CARE OF THE EARTH

In the words of an old Native American proverb, "We do not own the earth, we are merely borrowing it from our grandchildren." While it is important that adults take great care of the Earth so that is in good condition for the children, it is just as important that they know how to take care of it when they inherit it.

Getting kids involved with Earth Day with fun activities teaches them the importance of being environmentally aware for their sake, and for the sake of generations beyond.

MAKE A SKIT

Small children respond well to entertaining skits. Making puppets out of recyclable materials such as scrap cloth, boxes and bottle caps will allow them to put their knowledge of the environment into action. With the help of an adult, more information and ideas they did not previously know can be absorbed by way of an interesting character. Together, the adults and children can put on an Earth Day puppet show that combines all the ideas. An eco-friendly superhero puppet may be just the tool needed to introduce Earth Day.

ENJOY NATURE

Taking a nature walk is a fun Earth Day activity that is appropriate for all ages. There are so many opportunities and experiences that can be had by simply stepping into nature in midst of this digital age.

With so many electronic messages flooding the minds of children at an increasingly younger age, they often forget how enjoyable it is to be outside. A nature walk can reawaken that lost spark they had for playing outdoors. As the children enjoy the plants and animals, be prepared with some subtle yet interesting facts about preserving them.

Add a creative game to the nature walk to keep the kids interested. Since kids are generally competitive, have a contest to see who can pick up the most trash, and then have a talk about why littering is harmful. Reinforce the idea that by picking up even that little bit of garbage made a difference in the

health of the planet.

Develop a game that points out the beauty of the environment as well as the destruction that people cause. Play a game of "I Spy" with flowers, rocks, and leaves, but include vandalism, pollution and litter as well. After each turn, discuss the benefits the trees and animals have on the environment and how the negatives destroy them.

Also, scavenger hunts and treasure hunts have always been popular among kids. You could create a version that uses clues that feature important Earth Day concepts.

ONLINE GAMES

Unfortunately, the weather may not always accommodate an outdoor adventure on Earth Day, but there are teaching tools that can be done inside. For example, there are several Web sites — including Kaboose.com, CleanUpYourWorld.com, and FreeTheBeach.com, that provide free games to children. These games allow children to save the world with simple drag-and-drop features and many hidden teaching techniques that avoid transforming a fun game into a lecture.

EARTH HOUR

Part of Earth Day should focus on the need to cut down on the use of electricity, so avoid depending entirely on the internet for learning. Participate in Earth Hour.

During one predesignated hour of Earth Day, everyone -- businesses and homes alike -- are asked to turn off all their electrical power. This is the biggest climate awareness campaign done globally. Being part of something so large may help the children feel like they can be part of something big.

Children are like sponges. They absorb everything they hear and see. Take advantage of this on Earth Day, but do not stop there. Let the learning continue every day to ensure that the planet will be there for them, and long after.

Twisted Thinking

SWITCH TO COMPACT FLUORESCENT BULBS TO SAVE MONEY — AND THE ENVIRONMENT

You've probably seen and heard a lot about compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL), but maybe you've never really understood why you should switch to the new bulbs now.

Even though new rules and regulations are on the way that are going to push people toward CFL light bulbs, there is a long time until they kick in. Meanwhile, you still have some important reasons to make the switch to CFL bulbs now.

SAVE MONEY

One thing that motivates us is the opportunity to save money, and in a slow economy, that opportunity becomes even more important. You save money by switching to compact fluorescent light bulbs two ways.

First, you save money because you have to purchase fewer light bulbs. Sure, CFL bulbs cost a little bit more up front, but the average life of a CFL is about ten times longer. This means that for every CFL you purchase, you would have to buy 10 incandescent bulbs. Now, multiply that savings over each light bulb in your house and you'll see that you can save a lot of money over time.

Another way you save money with compact fluorescent light bulbs is by using less electricity. Since CFLs use only about one-quarter of the electricity as an

incandescent bulb, you will see a noticeable savings on your electric bill. In fact, the more CFLs you install, the more you save, so now is a good time to switch.

SAVE THE PLANET

It seems so simple: change your light bulbs and change the world, but it's true. You can make a difference that is worth more than the money you save. You will help leave a better world behind for the people who follow after you. By switching to compact fluorescent light bulbs you will become a more responsible resident on our planet.

Think about it this way: Most homes have between 50 and 100 light bulbs in use. Each one of these is sucking electrical power, most of which is generated by the burning of fossil fuels. The more coal and oil we burn, the more gasses are released into earth's atmosphere, and the worse off our planet will be.

The drastic reduction of electric consumption made possible through CFL bulbs will reduce the amount of electricity that needs to be produced. This is becoming even more important as the population of the world continues to grow.

CONSERVATION

Another reason to switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs is to conserve resources. There's only a



certain amount of fuel available to be burned to generate electricity. By making sure that we all use as little electricity as possible, we make sure that the supply of fuel will last longer.

This type of conservation is particularly important now as we await new sustainable methods to generate energy to become commonly available.

QUALITY OF LIGHT

There was a time when people thought that the light produced by compact fluorescent bulbs was not as good as that produced by incandescent bulbs. Manufacturers of CFLs now use a mix of phosphors inside the bulb to create a variety of color temperature lights that produce high quality white light that come in soft, cool, daylight, and other varieties.

The labels on CFL bulbs are also more customer friendly and can often help you find the shade of light that you want for each area of your home.

Compact fluorescent light bulbs can make a big difference to your world and to your wallet, so now is a great time to make the switch.

KEEP YANKTON BEAUTIFUL

Membership Form

Return with payment to:
Keep Yankton Beautiful
PO Box 406
Yankton, SD 57078-0406

Support Opportunities

I would like to be contacted for the following:

- Volunteer for Cleanup and/or Beautification Projects
- Special project Donations or Matching Funds Donations
- Special "In Honor Of" or "In Memory Of" Donations

Annual Membership and Support Opportunities

- Individual.....\$30.00
 - Sustaining.....\$100.00-\$249.00
 - Legacy.....\$500.00-\$1,499.00
 - Visionary.....\$3,000.00 & up
 - Family.....\$50.00
 - Growth.....\$250.00-\$499.00
 - Partner.....\$1,500.00-\$2,999.00
 - I can't join right now, but I would like to make a donation \$_____
- Please bill my Sustaining/Growth/Legacy/Partner/Visionary Membership in equal quarterly installments
- I would like to join a Keep Yankton Beautiful planning committee

Please print clearly

Your Name(s) _____ Business/Organization Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone Number _____ E-mail Address _____

RECEIVE **\$20** WHEN YOU SIGN UP & VIEW YOUR FIRST eSTATEMENT*

THIS EARTH DAY

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665-4999 Yankton North • 2105 Broadway Avenue
firstdakota.com

* The \$20 will be deposited into your checking account once your first eStatement is viewed.

EARTH FACT

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the average family throws out 2,000 pounds, or one ton, of garbage each year without recycling.



Lower your impact on the environment at our **GO GREEN** facility

24 HR EXPRESS LAUNDROMAT

2020 Elm St. • Yankton (located behind Walgreens)

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Top load washers use 33 gals. for 10 lbs.
Double loaders are good for 20 lbs. and only use 22 gals. and still clean just as well!

Dryers to match load size!

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- No outdoor unit
- Keep your home comfortable all year round
- Eligible for federal tax credits and state incentives
- FREE Estimates!

- 30% Tax Credit
- Cut Energy Bills up to 80%
- Financing Available

KPH

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