

Kids Resources & Activities for Reduce, Reuse and Recycle



✚ **Coffee Can Ice Cream Maker.** If you're looking for a great activity for the kids to do at home this summer, [let them make coffee can ice cream!](#) It's a fun way to make ice cream without using an ice cream maker, and it doubles as a fun science activity too.

✚ **Go Bowling With Plastic Bottles.** [This fun craft](#) takes very little time and supplies and kids love playing with this set. Enjoy bowling – inside or outside!

✚ **Nature Crafts for Kids.** Inspired by stones, sticks, leaves, shells, flowers, pinecones...you get the idea. [Let's start exploring!](#)



✚ **Recycle Wind Chime.** Go outside for a nature walk and gather sticks, weeds, and pickable blooms, and then bring the treasures inside to be showcased in recycled jar lids. With some wax paper and string, your kids can [craft this surprisingly beautiful recycled wind chime.](#)

✚ **Plastic Bottle Fairy House Nightlight.** Turn empty plastic water bottles into adorable [little fairy house night lights!](#) Fun for a child's room or a nursery, or even the garden.



✚ **Talk To & Teach Kids to Recycle Right.** While you're spending more time at home, you're also likely producing more waste, including recyclables. But recycling incorrectly [can do more harm than good.](#) To make sure you're not adding to contamination, **don't** put your recyclables in plastic bags and **double check before you throw** that item in the bin so you [know what to throw!](#)

✚ **Do a trash audit.** It may seem gross, but grab some gloves and [go through your trash can.](#) This will help you get a better understanding of what you're throwing away — and how much of your waste could be recycled or composted.

✚ **Try going zero-waste for a day.** It could be a fun challenge for your family to try producing no trash for a day or [this 31 day zero waste challenge – for kids.](#) Who knows? You might even decide to make some longer-term changes based on the experience.

**ZERO
WASTE
with
KIDS!**

✚ **Pick up litter.** While out and about on those daily walks, take a bag and some gloves with you to pick up litter you see. From [Keep America Beautiful](#) youth resources offer *Waste in Place* programs.

- ✚ **Cancel junk mail.** Save the trees! We all know the piles of magazines, junk mail and pamphlets that appear in the mailbox as if from nowhere. [Cancel this mail](#) and encourage your parents to switch monthly bills to online to reduce paper waste each month.

- ✚ **DIY reusable “paper” towels.** Many people don’t realize that **paper towels can’t be recycled**, and require a lot of resources to make. Cutting up old t-shirts, towels or other similar items into reusable fabric (paper) towels is a fun, environmentally friendly do-it-yourself project with kids. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vCqt90Tbyew>



- ✚ **Don’t use plastic water bottles.** Globally, millions of plastic bottles are purchased per minute — and [most aren’t recycled](#). Investing in a reusable bottle is beneficial in general, but now that most are sheltering-in-place, using reusable cups or bottles is easier than ever.

- ✚ **Go plogging and pliking,** (and bring a trash bag with you). [Plogging and pliking are the activities of jogging or biking while picking up litter at the same time.](#) But make sure to wear gloves, don’t touch your face, wash your hands after and it’s recommended not to pick up other gloves or masks. Getting out in the woods is the perfect way to not endanger yourself and really enjoy the incredible natural beauty in our states and realize what is at stake in these forests.



- ✚ **Clean out the closet.** Did you know that a garbage truck filled with clothes is dumped at a landfill every two minutes in the U.S.? [Textile waste is one of the fastest growing categories of waste to landfills.](#) Be sure to reuse, repurpose and donate clothes, shoes, hats, gloves, scarves, etc. If too worn, cut them into reusable rags.
- ✚ **Unplug your electronics.** Your electronics still use energy, when they’re not turned on. To counter this, unplug the devices you can when you’re not using them or invest in energy-saving power strips.
- ✚ **Close Netflix, pick up a book.** Streaming video requires a surprising amount of energy, which is often powered by climate-unfriendly sources such as coal or natural gas. So instead of hitting that “still watching” button, try a book instead.
- ✚ **Calculate your carbon footprint.** [Use this EPA tool to calculate](#) your carbon footprint as a family to better understand the impact of your household emissions. Use the opportunity to talk about what that means for the environment and brainstorm some different ways you might be able to reduce your family’s contributions.

