

Recycle Sorting Game

Have your kids been introduced to your household recycling bin? Playing a simple sorting game is a fun way to show them what should go in the trash and what should go in the recycling.

Set up

For this activity, you will need two containers or boxes. One should be labeled “Trash” and the other should be labeled “Recycling.” You will also need a variety of items from your recycling bin and various trash items. See below for a list of suggested items, and feel free to add your own!



Items to include from your recycling bin

- Soda can
- Steel can
- Water bottle
- Plastic/cardboard egg container
- Plastic soap container
- Cereal box
- Delivery box
- Mixed paper items

Items to include for Trash

- Styrofoam cup/egg carton
- Glass jar
- Plastic bag
- Chip bag/candy wrapper
- Bubble wrap
- Straw
- Zip lock bag

What to know first

It is important to know what items can be recycled in order to play the game. In Blount County, mixed paper, cardboard, rigid plastic, and metal cans can be recycled.

Play

Mix up all of the items into one pile. We will pretend this is a landfill.

Landfill: A large area of land that is used as a site for legal disposal of waste materials, where waste gets buried and covered in soil over and over again. Landfills do not last forever! They will eventually fill up.

Have your child pick up one item at a time and decide whether or not it should go in the trash or the recycling. Tip: if they are having a hard time with an item, ask them to remember what materials we can recycle- is the item made of paper/cardboard, rigid plastic, or metal? If not, it is probably trash.

Compare the new trash pile to the original. Notice how much smaller our landfill would be if we recycled!

Bonus!

Take it one step further by adding another box or container labeled "Compost!" Add compostable items to your trash pile such as apples, bananas, and coffee filters.

If you have any questions, please contact Keep Blount Beautiful at keepblount@gmail.com.

We'd love to see your sorted materials! You can send pictures to keepblount@gmail.com.