

WEEK 6 SUSTAINABILITY



REDUCE



REUSE



RECYCLE

RECYCLE - COMPOSTING CAN TURN OUR WASTE INTO SOMETHING NEW!

Parents- this experiment can be done as simply as making the compost bottle and discussing, photographing or drawing the changes weekly. For those who would like to take it further, I have offered a range of extensions and resources on the page but they are optional! 😊

Learning Intention – This week we are experimenting with ways to reduce waste by recycling food and garden scraps and turning them into valuable compost.

Success Criteria – Make your very own compost in a bottle. Be sure to make exciting layers using different colour food scraps, flowers, leaves, and even some paper to add some visual appeal.

Task –

- Have an adult carefully cut the top of the PET bottle (around the neck) leaving a small section connected to form a flip top lid.
- Have your child collect and then layer the ingredients in order of: leaves/twigs, soil, food scraps, soil (scatter through nonorganic items if using). Don't forget to add some colour!
- Spray each layer with a squirt of water (just enough to moisten).
- Flip the top of the PET bottle lid back down and tape.
- Label the layers using permanent markers or masking tape. Make sure you mark the top of the compost. Students might also like to give their bottle a name, a face, decorations...
- Place in a sunny spot and leave for 4 to 6 weeks, (this just happens to coincide with our Remote learning!)
- Once a week, mark the new height of the compost and observe changes in the volume and the rate of decomposition.
 - Students can record changes using photos, drawings and/or written descriptions. These can be as basic or as detailed as you and your child wish.
 - Weekly updates can be kept in Remote Learning books or even a special book, or a few A4 pieces of paper folded into a book, or...?

Extension -

- Treat half the experiments as anaerobic and the other half as aerobic (leave bottle lid off) to see if one breaks down more rapidly.
- Compare different light conditions - place some bottles on a windowsill, and others in a dark cupboard and observe differences.
- Record changes weekly.

Discuss - What is decomposition/ breaking down? Decomposition is the process by which a material is broken down into simpler parts. Composting is a great example of decomposition.

Discuss - What is compost? Compost is the breakdown of organic matter by bacteria and other organisms into humus. Composting is nature's way of recycling.

Discuss - What happens in a compost and how does it work?

Remember to share pictures and findings with me if you can at Rachael.feely@education.vic.gov.au I would love to upload your results to my Sustainability Gallery on the school website.

