

## What Can We Do in Our Schools (Preschool to Elementary Age)?

1. **Transform Trash to Treasure** - Have young children bring in a variety of recyclable items such as milk cartons, toilet paper and paper towel rolls, egg cartons and more. Challenge their creativity to come up with new inventions and art projects with the materials.
2. **Spend Extra Time Outdoors** - Connecting with nature is vital to becoming motivated to protect it. Plan a week full of activities (weather permitting) that invite children to understand more about their local environment.
3. **Plant a School Garden** - A sense of ownership makes a big difference. Invite parents to help build any necessary beds and donate seeds and starter materials. Make it a fundraiser by having kids sell their products at the end of the season and donate the money to a worthy green cause.
4. **Design Helpful Reminders** - Have students create colorful signs for school and home such as, "Don't forget to turn off the lights" or "Power down the computer when you're done."
5. **Go on a Scavenger Hunt** - Have students identify different plants, trees, flowers and more. Give them magnifying glasses so they'll feel like nature detectives.
6. **Take a Recycle Quiz** - Test student knowledge by creating a printout with items that can be recycled/composted (bananas, paper bags, aluminum cans) and items that can't be recycled (paint cans, orange peels, cosmetics). Have students circle items that can be recycled or composted and discuss why.
7. **Make a Homemade Bird Feeder** - Use recycled items such as milk cartons, toilet paper rolls or empty water bottles and make a bird feeder that both reuses materials and helps creatures of the earth.
8. **Collect Rainwater** - Teach students about water conservation using a variety of methods from simple science experiments to larger-scale projects such as installing a rain barrel collection system or rain garden at your school.
9. **Decorate Lunch Bags** - Enlist students' help to remind their parents of the importance of reducing waste by creating reusable lunch bags students can bring each day.
10. **Craft a Nature Collage** - Go on a nature walk and collect all sorts of items such as pine cones, sticks, leaves and flower petals that can be transformed into a beautiful art collage with just a little glue and construction paper.