

Materials and Resource List for Prekindergarten Earth Week Unit Plan

Materials

Books Read:

Curious George Plants a Tree by H.A. Rey and Margret Rey

Michael Recycle by Ellie Patterson

Compost Stew by Mary McKenna Siddals

The Lorax by Dr. Seuss

The Curious Garden by Peter Brown

15 small oak trees, provided through donation by local gardening supply store/nursery

15 shovels

15 buckets

Gardening supplies, provided through donation by local gardening supply store nursery

Vegetable and fruit seeds

Trash bags

Tracing worksheets for each student, individualized with their names

Salt for sensory activity

Recycled paper and other materials brought from home and collected from other classrooms

Construction paper colored apples, laminated for Apple counting activity

Number Bingo game (found on Amazon.com)

Colored pom poms of varying sizes

Construction paper colored leaves, laminated for Leaf counting activity

Resources

<https://4-h.org/parents/curriculum/>

The 4H organization provides information about educational programs in the area as well as print materials and guides for parents and families interested in further developing their children's growth in sustainable practices. I would contact the local 4H program in the area for advice regarding introducing prekindergarten students to gardening and perhaps asking for a volunteer to come assist with the class garden from time to time and ensure that we are doing all we can for our food to grow.

<http://www.pinellascounty.org/solidwaste/getridofit/>

The county of Pinellas has an interactive guide for residents that teaches them how and where to dispose of all kinds of waste products. Residents can also request delivery of a compost bin if so desired. I would utilize this resource in class to show the students what can and cannot be recycled.

<https://thekrazycouponlady.com/tips/at-home/replenish-garden-free-seeds-trees>

Most of the students in the area of the county where I teach come from families with low socioeconomic status and could directly benefit from having a resource where they are able to get coupons, compare prices of items at different stores in the area, and be eligible to receive free products. This website is beneficial for that, as well as listing some specific ways to obtain free or reduced-price vegetable and fruit seeds for planting, encouraging students and their families to bring home what they have learned during Earth Week.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ecd>

The Office of Early Childhood Development includes a variety of sources for caretakers, educators, and families of young children. I would utilize this website as reference in developing activities and materials for the Earth Week unit plan, to ensure that age-appropriate methods were being implemented.

<https://www.naeyc.org/>

The National Association for the Education of Young Children has relevant journal articles, position statement papers, links to other vital resources, as well as being the foremost authority on early childhood education for caretakers, educators and families of young children. I would utilize this website for most of my lesson ideas, as it has clear definitions and objectives that children exhibit upon reaching developmental milestones.

<http://www.myflfamilies.com/>

The Florida Department of Children and Families is an important resource for many families of the students in my care, as it connects them to available community supportive services, as well as for myself as an early childhood educator. I refer to past courses and continuing education materials in order to fully prepare for my classes that I teach and utilize many of the techniques that I have learned to better manage the classroom, as well as de-escalating techniques that continue to prove themselves useful. Information such as methods for decreasing confusion and chaos during transition periods and breaking the class into smaller “big” groups, or in half during activities has been used in the Earth Week unit plan.

<http://www.fldoe.org/>

Families of young children can visit the Florida Department of Education website and be connected to information such as what school zone is their child in, how to contact their child’s teacher through email or phone number, if enrolled in a public program, links to individual school websites, and many more information highways. As an educator, I will access the department’s classroom supply assistance program to find some of the materials needed for the Earth Week unit plan, specifically the books used during that week.

<http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/>

The Office of Early Learning for Florida offers educational and developmental standards for young students, as well as information on programs for Birth through Kindergarten within the local area. I utilize this website for resources on professional development, as well as to obtain aid in developing assessments for lessons. Under the statewide initiatives section, one of the most valuable items is a program in which an educator is able to send their pre and post student assessments prior to having used them in the classroom, and receive constructive feedback from one of three companies, as well as have a valid and reliable source for pre-made assessments for specific age groups.

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/why-cacfp-important>

Child and Adult Care Food Program provides free meals via federal funding for all those who qualify based on several factors, one being that of income. These are provided through the educational or care program that the individual is attending, and some institutions may qualify as a whole depending on meeting all eligibility requirements. I would utilize information about this program for the families of my students, and perhaps obtain some informational materials to have on display in the classroom during pick-up and drop-off times for individuals to take as they please.

<https://www.healthykids.org/>

The Florida Healthy Kids website is a resource for families interested in receiving affordable health insurance and coverage for the children in their care; basically a marketplace comparing different plans and providers in the area. Federal funding for free or reduced cost care is automatically applied when filling out the required income tax information. I use the resources section of the website for links and tips on introducing certain topics to my students, especially

those on nutrition and exercise. I also refer families to the website, and list it as a reliable source when discussing similar subject matter.