

Swap Party

Case Study

The Point Preschool

National Recycling Week 2008



Project Description

Keen to take on a new initiative to help protect the environment, the children at Point Preschool, Oyster Bay were inspired to hold a Swap Party to celebrate National Recycling Week 2008. We aimed to actively implement the philosophy of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink, and every child enthusiastically gave what they could to make a difference. The event was held on Tuesday 11th November, with children swapping everything from books and CDs to batman capes and spiderman costumes. Any items left were either kept for use at the preschool or donated to St Vincent de Paul. The Swap Party was so successful the children asked to do it again, so it will become part of our regular activities.

Project Rationale

Our children and families take pride in caring for the environment. We have already implemented many “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Repair” initiatives to help create a sustainable world. We have a worm farm, compost bin, a no-waste lunch policy, and ensure that all children, families and staff know how to recycle and do so. The idea of the Swap Party helped to add another “R” – Rethink - to our practices, and provided an opportunity for children to rethink what they do with possessions they no longer use or want. Our inspiration was: “When you recycle one thing today, remember that millions of other people are doing the exact same thing as you. Together, we all make a difference.”

Project Stakeholders

- Point Preschool children, families and staff
- St Vincent de Paul

Project Outcomes

The Swap Party helped us see first hand how we can rethink what we can do with things we no longer use or want. The children discussed with their families what they would swap and if they needed to swap. Some children decided to donate an item but did not take anything in return.

Some items were kept to use at the preschool and the items that were left over were given to St Vincent de Paul.

The Swap Party was a great success and generated much excitement and interest amongst the children, parents and teachers. As a result, we have now committed to holding regular Swap Parties, as part of our sustainable practices.

Lessons

We really enjoyed our Swap Day, and this was a great way to offer a different type of recycling to our families and children.

Celebrating your sustainable achievements is important and gives you so much positive reinforcement to continue your practices. We have found that once you start implementing sustainable practices it empowers you to take on more challenges to protect and care for our beautiful environment.

For More Information

See the full case study on other recycling and green initiatives that have been implemented at the Point Preschool to reduce waste, energy and water use, and to meet other environmental targets. Visit RecyclingWeek.PlanetArk.org/Business/Case-Studies.cfm

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This case study was developed by the Point Preschool and Planet Ark to assist other groups participating in Planet Ark's Big Aussie Swap.

For details about the National Recycling Week or the Big Aussie Swap contact Janet Sparrow at Planet Ark on 02 8484 7214 or janet@planetark.org



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