

Domain: Environmental sanitation
Subjects: Solid waste disposal

Age group: 2-4 years

2.2 Ouch and bah

Learning goals:

Knowledge:

- Children learn to identify various types of solid waste and where they occur.
- They can identify negative implications of careless disposal practices.
- They develop the idea of waste as a resource.

Attitude:

- They develop positive attitudes towards a clean environment and waste as a resource.
- They are willing to make efforts themselves to keep their environment clean, reuse waste and stimulate others to do the same.

Practical skills:

- They dispose of waste in a safe way, including for recycling/reuse where possible.
- They clean up solid waste in school regularly and systematically without discrimination by age, sex or other social, economic and cultural characteristics.

Psychosocial life skills:

- They can analyse personal and other risks, assess consequences, think critically, identify and practise alternatives, do not practise discrimination and correct discrimination.

Participatory methods:

Group discussion, handling items, environmental walk

Materials:

Solid waste items of a different nature which are common locally, such as a maize cob, a banana peeling, a sweet wrapper, a glass bottle or jar, a piece of broken glass

Activities:

- Show the items to the children.
- Ask them to say what each item is.
- Other questions may be, for example: Where can banana peelings (sweet wrappers, pieces of glass, etc.) be found? What has happened to them that they are lying there?
- Guide/help the children carefully to touch each item. How would they describe the inside of the banana? What might happen if you were running and you stepped on a banana peel? What is the shape of the maize cob? What might happen if you were running and you stepped on a maize cob? How does the edge of a piece of glass feel? What would happen if you stepped on it?
- Ask the children what they do with sweet wrappers and what happens if everyone throws their wrappers on the ground.
- Finally, facilitate a discussion about better means for disposal and reuse of waste. Possible questions:
 - Where should you throw waste?
 - Are there ways in which you could use an empty jar or bottle, a maize cob, peelings of fruits? (e.g. reuse or sell empty jars or throw in a recycling bin; make compost; use for fuel)
 - What will you do if you see a friend throwing away a? (fill in as appropriate)

Application:

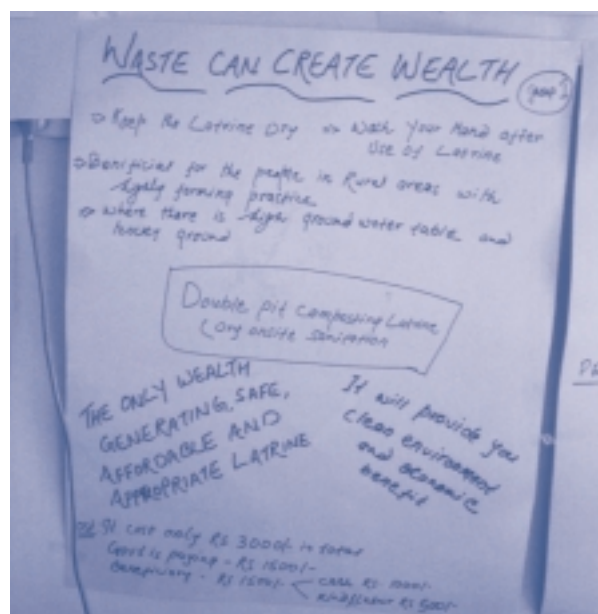
- Ask the children to bring solid waste materials from home which can be used in class. Examples: coloured postcards which can be cut up to make puzzles and which the children can use to form small groups (assignment: find the child or children who have the matching piece or pieces of a postcard); newspapers which can be used for folding paper hats and sailing boats; tins and string which can be used to make pairs of stilts to walk on.
- Take an environmental walk with the children. Ask them to name the kinds of waste that they see in and around the school. Ask them to guess who may have thrown it there and why and how it could have been safely disposed of or reused.
- Older children or the teacher collect items in a bag or bin, protecting his/her hand with e.g. a plastic bag, disposing of the bag and washing hands with soap afterwards. (It is not recommended that young children pick up waste themselves.)
- The school organises learning experiments and school projects on composting and reuse of biodegradable waste and excreta (compost and urine as part of eco-latrines and urinals) in school; using the compost and urine for trees and school gardens.

Learning indicators:

- Children can mention at least two different types of solid waste.
- They can tell where these items can be found.
- They can give two examples of negative effects of solid waste and two examples of recycling/ reuse.
- In school, they throw waste in bins/compost pit. No solid waste is seen in the school yard/bushes around the school.
- They can mention at least two examples of recycling/reuse in school and/or at home.

Competence:

Keeping the surroundings clean Recycling and reusing waste as a resource



Waste can create wealth
(Photo: Mariëlle Snel)