

Eco ED Puppet

Eco Ed can be a fabulous resource to enable a discussion with children on the many topics concerning the environment. Many teachers use puppets to impart information, explain the meanings of words, pronunciation, etc. so most children will be used to this method and will play along- don't worry on that score!

I hope that the following few minutes of action will help give you a little more confidence when using Eco Ed.

It will be important for you to feel comfortable handling the puppet - so make sure you practice before hand.

A good place to practice is in front of a mirror. Once you feel your 'talk' is coming together then show it to a few colleagues or friends and get some feedback on what you say and how you say it.

There is no doubt that you will be able to grab the children's attention and that your audience will be up for a bit of fun!

Develop your own script if you prefer, indeed we are sure that the outline provided can be improved and, as you make more presentations, you will inevitably change according to the feedback you receive.

You could take one of two lines... either speak for Ed or let Ed speak as well as you... don't worry about moving your lips as the children will be concentrating on the puppet... just make sure you move his mouth occasionally!

Tip: Look down so you can see Ed's nose. If you are looking at the puppet the children will follow your gaze and look at Ed too.

Ed is a simple puppet to use; he has a single hand hole for you to control his head and mouth. He also has a rod arm attachment which is attached to either hand using the Velcro pad. This is to allow you to move one of his arms in an animated way, to pretend to remove things from this bag and gesture towards the children.

Eco Ed carries a bag with him, which has props that will help with your talk. Please add and remove things from his bag to help you, it will include a recycling bank activity, some energy saving cards and a classroom thermometer.

You could add items like a 'Bag for Life' to show that he is always prepared for some shopping, an empty drinks bottle so he can refill it instead of always using a new plastic cup.

Talk slowly and clearly and project your voice to ensure that the whole group can hear what you are saying. Get Ed to ask if everyone can hear what he is saying.

Here are a few ideas for a talk...

About Eco Ed...

He has come into schools, as he thinks that he has some very important messages to share with you. He has actually got a nickname that his friends gave him because he spends so much time trying to do his best for the planet... they call him Eco Ed. He wants to see if you all know how you can help make the world a lot cleaner and a better place to live. It is a small planet and there are now over 6 billion people so we must make sure that we are careful with all the resources that we use.

Say Hello to Eco Ed...

Hello! My name is Eco Ed and I have come to talk to you today about a very important issue - how all of YOU can play your part in saving our planet.

There are 3 important words for you to remember that will help us all do this. They all begin with the letter R. Can anyone tell me what the 3 R's stand for?

(Await Children's response)

The 3 R's stand for:

Reduce
Reuse
Recycle

Reduce- this means reducing the amount of raw materials we use, the amount of energy we waste and the amount of rubbish we produce

Reuse- this means making sure that we use things more than once. Examples- reusing plastic take away cartons or sorting food, the plastic lid off an ice cream carton as a paint mixing tray, clean yoghurt pots for paint, glue and water pots, old jam jars for storing small items like screws, buttons, batteries.

Recycle- this means making new things out of old things.

We need to reduce, reuse and recycle as we are using too many of the worlds resources and are producing too much waste. This is damaging our world. We need to start protecting our planet for future generations, for children just like you.

- Ideas to continue the discussion

Reduce

There are many ways in which we can reduce the amounts of raw materials that we all use and the energy that we waste.

Energy- we can save energy by not leaving lights on. Can anyone think of any other ways in which we can save energy (wait for children's responses or use prompts e.g.- not leaving television or play station on standby, using every light bulbs).

Water- we can make sure that taps are turned off. Don't leave water running while you are cleaning you teeth!

Heat- save heat by making sure that you close windows, doors and curtains- keep out those drafts!

Reuse

There are many ways in which you can reuse carrier bags so that they do not end up in our landfill sites. Take them back to a supermarket so that you can reuse them for putting your shopping into at the checkout, or hand in at a charity shop where they can be reused.

Refill your plastic water bottles and use rechargeable batteries. Can anyone think of any other ways in which we can reuse everyday items found in either school or your home?

Recycle

How many people recycle at home? Do you have recycling bins at home? What things are you able to recycle?

Cans can be crushed and taken to a factory where they are melted down. This is how metal can then be moulded to make new metal items- like bicycles or aeroplanes- or they can just be made into cans again.

Glass bottles and jars can also be crushed and melted to create new bottles and jars and old paper can be pulped to make new paper.

Did you know... recycling one glass bottle would save enough energy to power a computer for 25 minutes? 70% less energy is required to recycle paper compared to making it from raw material.

Fruit and vegetable waste can be composted, along with tissues, tea bags and egg shells.

Did you know... up to 50% of all household rubbish could be composted so that it doesn't end up in landfill sites?