

Caring For the Environment: Ages 4-5

Learning to care for the environment will give your child an opportunity to:

- Develop a sense of respect for the natural environment
- Experience the natural environment in a positive way
- Explore the natural world around them



Ideas to try with your child:

- Show your child how to sort items for recycling and explain how this supports a healthy environment.
- Plant a window garden and watch small plants grow. Talk about what is needed for growth: sun, water and soil. Visit a community garden to show that others do the same.
- Give your child the chance to do other things that promote a sense of contributing to the environment, such as planting seeds or turning off the lights when leaving a room to save energy.

If your child is struggling:

Connect ideas about saving the earth with everyday experiences:

- Turning off water while brushing teeth saves water from going down the drain.
- Hanging up a towel after a shower allows it to be used again.

Going further:

Find books from the library:

- *We Planted a Tree* by Diane Muldrow
- *The Curious Garden* by Peter Brown
- *10 Things I Can Do to Help My World* by Melanie Walsh
- *Michael Recycle* by Ellis Bethel
- *The Earth and I* by Frank Asch

The WA State Department of Early Learning and the Richland School District believes that parents, families, and caregivers are young children's best teachers. This resource guide, part of *Strong Foundations for School: Resource Guides for Parents of Young Children*, highlights a key developmental skill for **children ages 4-5** that parents can help improve at home.



Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012*: "Participate (with adult direction) in activities that preserve the environment." Learning About My World, Ages 4-5, pg. 79