

Trash to Treasure

Inspired by *Michael Recycle* by Ellie Bethel

Goal: Create artwork from recycled materials.

You will need:

- Cardboard tubes (toilet paper or paper towel rolls)
- Small cardboard boxes (e.g., cereal or tissue boxes)
- Plastic bottle caps and lids
- Clean plastic containers (like yogurt cups or small plastic jars)
- Other clean objects from the recycle or trash bin
- Glue or tape
- Washable markers, crayons, or non-toxic paint
- Scissors

What to do:

- Arrange all the recyclable materials on a flat surface. Let your child explore each piece, encouraging them to describe the shapes, colors, and textures. Ask them to imagine what each item could become.
- Invite your child to think about what they'd like to create. You can suggest ideas if they're uncertain, like an animal, a robot, a building, or something abstract.
- Have them pick the items they want for their creation. They can use glue or tape to connect their recycled items together. For younger children, tape may be easier to handle.
- Provide markers, crayons, or paint for your child to decorate their creation.
- Find a special place to display it, and let them share what they made with family or friends.

To think about:

- Ask questions like: What inspired you to make this? How did you come up with the idea? Why is it important to recycle and reuse items? What other things could we make out of recycled materials?
- Have your child create a story about their artwork—where it lives, what it likes to do, or what it's made from.

