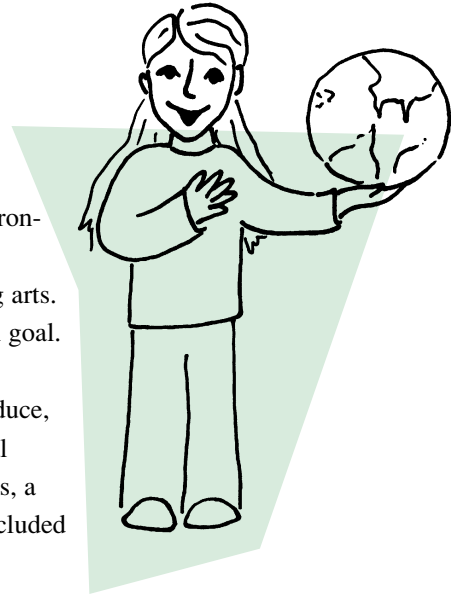


Cloverbud - One Act Play

OBJECTIVES:

- To develop a responsible attitude towards community and environmental issues.
- To realize the value of educating others through the performing arts.
- To understand the value of working together toward a common goal.

Note to the Volunteer: Use this lesson in conjunction with "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle" in the subject area of Earth/Environmental Education. This lesson involves planning, making simple props, a practice/rehearsal in addition to the performance. Activities included here may take more than one meeting to plan and complete.



BACKGROUND:

Encourage an attitude of responsibility, respect, and caring for the environment by producing and directing this one act play with the Cloverbuds. Help them learn the value of educating the public about important issues while working together as a team. Invite parents, grandparents, friends, and neighbors to see the children perform. To reach a bigger audience, ask local community groups or organizers of a local festival or fair if they would be interested in hosting a performance by local Cloverbud talent.

▶ LIFE SKILL AREAS

Social skills and decision making will be developed by working together as a group planning and performing the play. Large motor skills will be developed through play practice. Fine motor skills will be enhanced by making props and invitations.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

I. GETTING STARTED

 **ACTIVITY:** "Planning the Performance"

Grade Level: K - 3

Materials: see below.

The Play: A Synopsis

Mother Nature is unhappy because people are not taking care of the Earth. She worries about increasing litter and trash. She watches as several children eat lunch and leave their trash on the ground. Several other children overhear her concerns and put their heads together to plan a remedy. Mother Nature is thankful that someone cares and is hopeful that people will realize the importance of taking care of the Earth.

The Players

Characters include Mother Nature, three (or more) helpful children and several "litterers." Because the number of performers is arbitrary, each member of the group can participate.

The Props

No costumes will be necessary other than flowers or vines wrapped around Mother Nature. Other props needed include:

- food wrappers, paper cups for the children to throw down
- newspaper, trash bags, empty soft drink cans, etc., to be strewn about the stage
- a posterboard with a large lightbulb drawn or painted on it
- 3 large brown paper grocery bags, or boxes, one labeled "REDUCE," one labeled "REUSE," and one labeled "RECYCLE" in large, contrasting letters.
- empty packaging, styrofoam cups, plastic dish containers, 2 soft drink cans, and plastic milk cartons

The Invitations

Materials: brown paper bags, markers, glue, scissors, pre-printed information.

Make simple invitations - on recycled paper of course - for family and friends. Cut the bags into 4" x 6" rectangles. Fold them in half. Have the children print "YOU'RE INVITED" on the front. On the inside glue 2" x 3" rectangles of paper with the following information printed on them:

A Cloverbud Production
of
MOTHER NATURE'S WISH COMES TRUE

Date:
Time:
Place:
RSVP:



Encourage the children to invite their families, friends, and neighbors!

II. DIGGING DEEPER

☀ **ACTIVITY:** "The Script"

Grade Level: 1 - 3

Materials: see below.

MOTHER NATURE'S WISH COMES TRUE	
A One Act Play	
Characters	
Mother Earth Children Playing Children Littering Narrator	
Time	
The Present	
Setting	
Outdoors in a Park	

MOTHER NATURE'S WISH COMES TRUE

As the scene opens, Mother Earth is standing at the far left of the stage. The children playing are at center stage and the children littering are at the far right of the stage. It may be helpful to use masking tape on the floor to indicate where people should be. Litter and trash are everywhere. The poster with the lightbulb is face down on the floor at center stage.

Narrator: Shhh! Listen! Can you hear that? I think Mother Nature is crying!

Mother Nature: *(sobbing loudly)* Look at this! What a mess! My beautiful park is a mess!
(sobs again as the children playing walk over to her)

First Child: What's the matter, Mother Nature?

Mother Nature: *(sobbing)* Look! Look at my park! It's a mess!

Second Child: *(looking around)* Wow! You're right, it is messy!

Third Child: *(pointing at the children across the stage who throw trash on the ground and run off the stage)* Look! Look what they did! They threw their trash on the ground!

Mother Nature: *(sobbing)* I know! If people don't stop soon, the whole earth will be covered with trash! I wish people would learn to take better care of the Earth! *(sobs again and walks off the stage)*

ONE ACT PLAY

First Child: She's right! People throw away too much trash!

Second Child: And waste things they could use again!

Third Child: Let's think!

(They put their heads together and form a huddle, arms around each others shoulders; after "buzzing" a few seconds, one child holds up the lightbulb, signifying to the audience that they have a bright idea.)

First Child: I know! *(lightbulb is returned to the floor)*

Second Child: Hey kids! Come here! *(the other children return)* Mother Nature, where are you? *(Mother Nature comes back on stage)*

Third Child: Mother Nature is worried about this mess! *(point to all the trash)*

Mother Nature: Oh, how I wish people would learn to take better care of the Earth!

First Child: *(brings box marked REDUCE to center stage)* Here's how we can help! First, we can stop buying things with so much packaging and disposable things! *(pulls a package and styrofoam cups out of the box)*

Second Child: *(brings box marked REUSE to center stage)* And we can use things over and over again like these bowls and bags! *(shows bowls and paper bag)*

Third Child: *(brings box marked RECYCLE to center stage)* And we can get serious about recycling cans, bottles, and plastic. *(shows a soft drink can, a glass container, and a plastic milk jug)*

Other children in unison: Yeah! That's a great idea!

Mother Nature: If people would all take the time to follow your advice, I think my wish might just come true!

(all the children walk around the stage and pick up the trash and put it in the boxes)

Narrator: Mother Nature got her wish. Let's all try to keep the Earth healthy by reducing, reusing, and recycling!

THE END

III. LOOKING WITHIN



ACTIVITY: "Cast Party"

Grade Level: 1 - 3

Materials: punch, cake, plastic forks and knives, reusable cups, napkins, tablecloth.

Ask the children to invite their parents, family, and friends to celebrate the success of their performance by sharing some refreshments. Make sure to use the boxes from the play to collect plastic forks and cups to use again!

