

THINGS TO MAKE WITH LITTER



**Toys, gifts, musical instruments,
and many more
easy and fun activities...**



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1. Introduction

Q: WHY DO WE CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT?

This is the major question we need to ask ourselves as well as the children, when teaching children about their environment.

A: BECAUSE WE ARE PART OF THE ENVIRONMENT!

What we do to our environment, we do to ourselves. When our environment is full of poison, so are we!!

God created our earth with such care and beauty. If we believe in God and see what he has created, we have to care, look around and see how beautiful our earth can be. The beautiful blue skies, the different shades of the grass in the fields and the trees! Each small little creature is important and has its place! God created each one of us as beautifully and as special as each one of his creatures and gave us into our care this earth. Our children deserve a healthy and clean environment within which they can flourish and we all know that when you wake up in a beautiful place you feel a lot better than when you wake up in a dirty ugly place.



Litter is a problem of our society, TOO MUCH WASTE, NOT ENOUGH CARE! By teaching our children to care for the environment and engaging children in litter re-use activities they are made aware of the problems associated with littering.

One of the problems our country faces is **poverty** and by teaching children the **skills** of re-using litter, we can teach them to generate an income. Even if it's only through recycling the litter, they can generate an income. In fact, litter is the gold of tomorrow as many companies are starting to regenerate litter to produce an income and fortunately that is also good for the environment and of course, then for us.

We at **SOAPKidz** love both the children and nature and by making use of fun filled outings which involve nature hikes, bird spotting, kayaking, sailing, orienteering, adventure racing, rock climbing, tree planting, environmental education, litter clean ups and litter re-use activities, SOAPKidz focuses on connecting children with nature and to instill in them a love and respect for themselves, others and the environment.

2. Re-Use

RE-USE: Re-using is using something again, instead of throwing it away. Re-using is different from recycling because the object is still the same - it hasn't been melted and re-shaped.

WHY SHOULD WE RE-USE THINGS?

Re-using something instead of buying new things all the time is good for the environment because:

- re-using something reduces waste, such as paper; tins, glass and even plastic;
- each time something new is made, it takes resources from nature and often creates pollutants which go into the atmosphere as poison gasses;

MANY THINGS CAN BE RE-USED:

- **PLASTIC CARRIER BAGS**

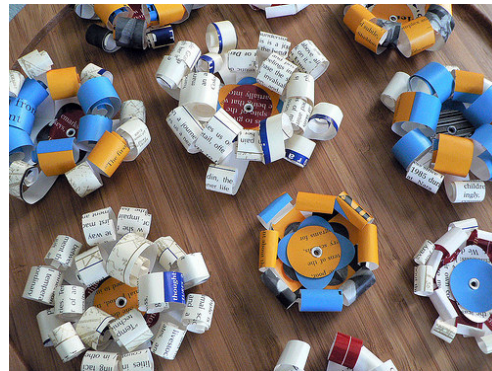
Take used plastic carrier bags with you when you go shopping. Re-use them instead of taking new ones each time. Ways of reusing them to make money is by learning to crochet them into items such as bathmats, which are strong, soft and durable.

- **PLASTIC BOTTLES**

Refill water bottles from the tap. Bottles can be used to grow vegetables, protect small plants from the sun and pests or make a variety of household containers. They have also been used to make pretty mobiles, bird feeders and ornaments.

- **PAPER AND MAGAZINES**

Use both sides of every sheet of paper. Used paper makes good compost. Paper that is shredded and mixed with glue can make a variety of paper maché ornaments, which can be painted and sold. It is estimated that every year the average South African family throws away four trees worth of paper



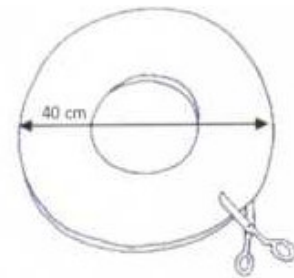
3. Crazy Hat

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1. Stiff card (old box)
2. Pair of scissors
3. Thread, wool or string
4. Things to hang onto the brim such as small plastic toys, jewelry, curtain rings, beads, buttons, cotton reels, seed pods, shells, bits of dried plants, old bits of material, paper or wool

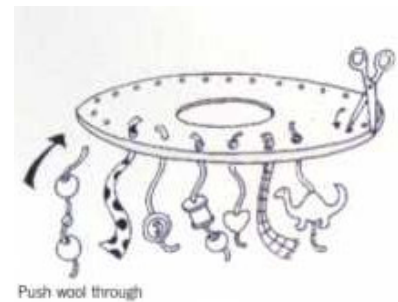
WHAT TO DO:

1. Draw a circle on the card. Then draw a smaller one in the centre. Cut out both circles to leave you with a ring shape.

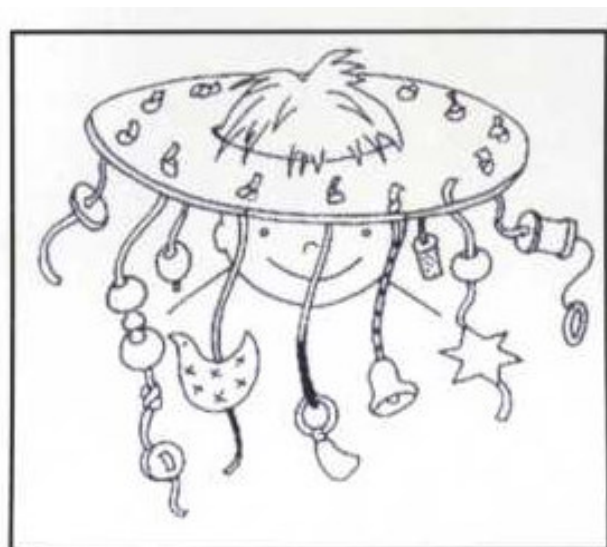


2. Thread lots of different things on to the wool or string

3. Make holes around the outside edge / brim.



4. Pull the wool or string through and make tie it securely with a knot / button or bead at the top.



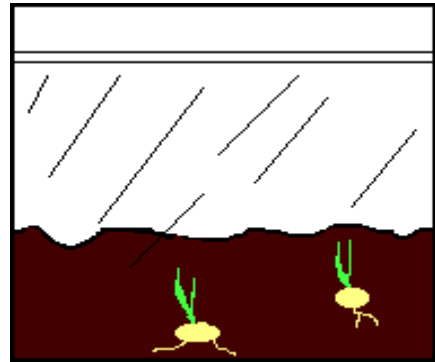
4. Grow your own corn

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1. Kernels of popcorn
2. Ziplock bag
3. Dirt and Water

WHAT TO DO:

1. Place some dirt in a Ziplock bag
2. Add some water and a few kernels of popcorn.
3. Seal the bag and place it in a sunny window. You should see some growth within a week.



5. Shaker Bottles

Children seem to love playing with these!

Each one is different and offers endless fascination!

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1. Plastic bottle
2. Selection of glitter, sequins, cellophane, gold foil paper, gold coin wrappers, pink plastic straws, seed, beads, anything that won't dissolve immediately in water.
3. You can use a tiny drop of food colouring and glycerine (optional)

WHAT TO DO:

1. Fill the bottles nearly 3/4 full with water
2. Add a little glycerine and, if required, food colouring
3. Let the children fill their bottles with their own choice of bits and pieces. They can cut the cellophane and foil into little pieces with scissors or use a hole punch. We added tiny snippets of pink plastic bag!
4. When they have made their selection, put the tops on tight and seal them firmly on with masking tape or similar, just to be safe.



6. Bags

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1. Magazine
2. Cellotape
3. Scissors
4. String
5. Punch to make holes

WHAT TO DO:

1. Use two double pages from a magazine and fold open
2. Fold top piece over (2cm)
3. Use punch to make two holes on top
4. Take two strings and make handles
5. Use Cello tape to stick two open sides together



7. Cell phones

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1. Box or cardboard to make a box
2. Paper
3. Scissors
4. Crayons
5. Glue



WHAT TO DO:

1. Fold the box
2. Draw a cell phone
3. Cut out picture of cell phone and stick on box
4. Children can decorate their cell phones

8. Treasure bottle

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1. 1 Plastic Bottle
2. Sand to Fill bottle
3. Small items to hide in bottle
4. Index card for list
5. Glue to seal bottle



WHAT TO DO:

1. Remove the label from the bottle
2. Clean the bottle.
3. Choose the treasures to hide in the bottle from items around the house.
4. List the items on an index card
5. Use a funnel to fill the bottle about halfway with sand.
6. Add your treasures to the bottle, then add more sand to about 1 cm from the top.
7. Use glue to seal the top



9. Pencil Holder

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1. 1 Plastic Bottle
2. Scissors
3. String
4. Stickers and things to decorate your pencil holder (e.g. elastics)
5. Glue to put string on



WHAT TO DO:

1. Remove the label from the bottle and clean the bottle
2. Cut the top off to use only the bottom half (cut in zig-zag or wave pattern)
3. Use your imagination to decorate and create a beautiful pencil holder.

10. Mobile

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1. Plastic Bottle
2. Beads / feathers / bottle tops
3. Scissors
4. String / fishing line
5. Punch to make holes

WHAT TO DO:

1. Use the Scissor to cut off the bottom of the bottle to leave the top for your mobile
2. Punch a few holes at the bottom edge (depending how many strings you want to hang)
3. Tie beads / feathers / bottle tops or anything you think would look nice onto the string / fishing line
4. Tie the strings through the holes you have punched
5. Make a hole in the bottle top. Tie a bead at the inside of the bottle top to a string through the top.
6. Tie a loop at the top of your string to hang your mobile



11. Suncatcher

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1. 6 or More CD's
2. Scissors
3. Glue
4. Hole Punch
5. Fishing line
6. Coat Hanger or hammer and a few Nails

WHAT TO DO:

1. Punch a hole in every CD – somewhere near the top.
2. Put the second CD on the first one – make sure the holes line up and press the two CD's together
3. Repeat the process
4. Let the glue dry for an hour and insert line into one set of CD's and hang.
5. Repeat the process.

12. Fish

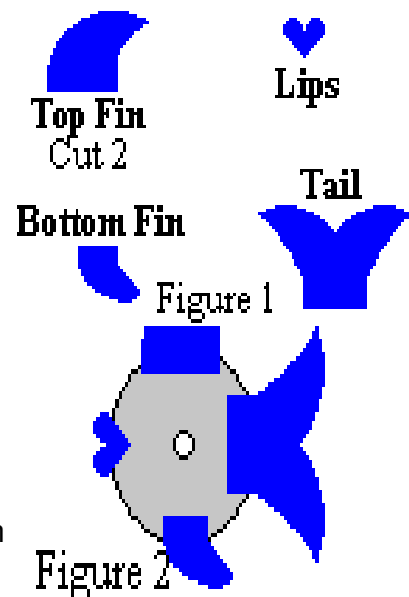
MATERIALS NEEDED:

1. 2 Old CDs
2. Construction Paper
3. Large Wiggly Eyes
4. Glue
5. Yarn or Fishing Line

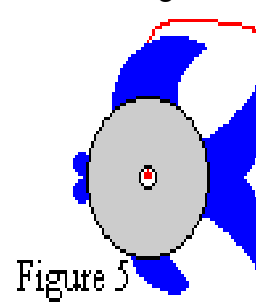
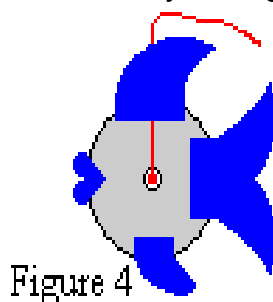
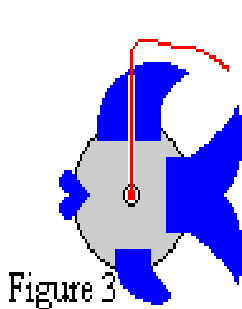


WHAT TO DO:

1. Using whatever color of paper you prefer, cut out the fish's lips, fins, and tail (figure 1).
2. Glue the lips and fins to the side of the CD with the writing on it (figure 2). Set aside one of the top fins.
3. Cut a piece of yarn or fishing line 8 cm long. Tie a knot in one end. Run a line of glue from the hole in the centre of the CD up to the top edge of the top fin that is glued onto the CD. Lay the yarn or fishing line on top of the glue so the knot is in the hole in the CD as shown in figure 3.



4. Glue the extra top fin on top of the other top fin to cover the yarn (figure 4). Spread glue all over the side of the CD that everything else is glued to. Set the other CD on top of the glue and match up all the edges. Make sure you have the side of the CD with any writing facing down into the glue.



5. Glue the wiggly eyes on your fish as shown in figure 6. Glue one on each side of his head. If you don't have wiggly eyes, you can also use a small white pom-pom and a black bead. This will give your fishes eyes a more 'buggy' look!

6. The last thing you need now is a fin on the side of the fish! You will make these by using a 10 X 12 cm piece of construction paper. Fold the paper. Using figure 7 for an example, you would fold the paper back and forth on the white lines. Once it is fold, hold the folds together and slip in through the hole in the center of the CD. Center the paper in the hole and unfold the ends a bit to fluff them out. Add a little glue to hole of the CD and the paper. You can now hang up your completed fish (figure 8).

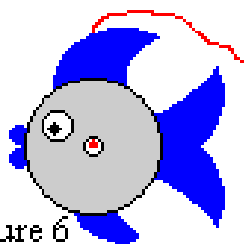


Figure 6



Figure 7

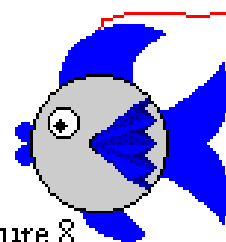


Figure 8

13. Musical Marakas

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1. Strong, Y-shaped branch, preferably hardwood
2. Beads
3. 12 metal bottle caps
4. Strong wire, Acrylic paint and brushes
5. Assorted decorations; feathers, colored cord, or beads



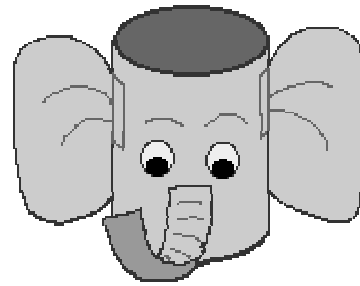
WHAT TO DO:

1. Decorate the stick with paints and feathers.
2. Remove the rubber liners from the bottle caps by having an adult "cook" them for five minutes on a hot outdoor grill (this step is optional but recommended, as it greatly improves the sound).
3. Flatten the caps with a hammer. Use a nail to punch a small hole in the centre of each cap.
4. Thread the caps onto the wire and string tautly between the arms of the Y

14. Pencil Holder

WHAT YOU NEED:

1. Can about 10 cm tall, wash and remove label
2. Tacky glue
3. Scissors
4. Tape
5. Crayons or markers
6. Gray paper
7. Wiggle eyes or white paper



WHAT TO DO:

1. Cut a piece of paper large enough to cover the outside of the can. Tape it to the can.
2. Fold a (15 X 10 cm) piece of gray paper in half. Cut out an ear shape. (When you unfold it, you'll have two ears that are the same size and shape.)
3. Make a fold about 1 cm wide down the "inside" part of the ears. Make a cut halfway down the fold and bend one part of the inside part forward and one part backwards. When you glue them to the can, it will make the ears "stand up."
4. Cut out the trunk. Use a pencil to "curl the trunk" so that it will stand out from the can instead of laying flat. (You take a pencil and the end part of the trunk and roll the paper gently around the pencil about halfway up the trunk.)
5. Draw nostrils on the part that will be turned up, and wrinkles along the trunk. Make a 1 cm fold at the top and glue the trunk to the can.
6. Glue on two wiggle eyes or use the white paper and a black pen to make your own eyes and glue them on the can on either side of the trunk.
7. Draw the elephant a mouth below the trunk. Add any other details you would like your elephant to have (wrinkles, tusks, etc.)

15. Binoculars

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1. Toilet Rolls
2. String
3. Stapler or elastic and Sellotape

WHAT TO DO:

1. Tape or staple two toilet roll tubes together at each end.
2. For really cool binoculars cover them with brightly patterned paper!



BIRD SPOTTING HINTS

- Go quietly, birds frighten easily
- Find a good spot and then keep very still. Birds scare at sudden movement
- Camouflage yourself – stand or sit close to trees and bushes, not out in the open
- Birds have good hearing – don't talk or whisper
- Early morning or late afternoon are active times for birds, so don't go bird spotting at midday
- Safety first – always inform an adult where you are going
- NEVER touch or disturb bird nests

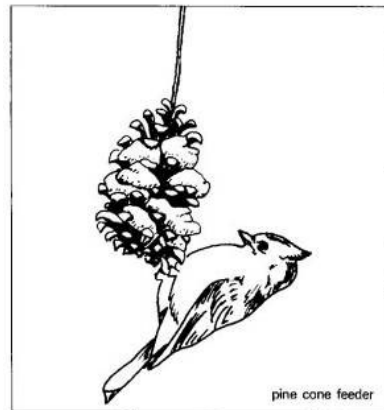
16. Bird Feeders

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1. Peanut Butter, Pine Cones
2. Bird Seed and String

WHAT TO DO:

1. Put peanut butter on the cone
2. Add seed
3. Use string to hang in trees



17. Numbers Game

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1. Film Container
2. 10 Beans
3. Paint
4. Items to Decorate Container

HOW TO MAKE THE GAME:

1. Paint the beans with one colour on one side and the other side with another colour.
2. Let the paint dry and then place the beans in the film container.

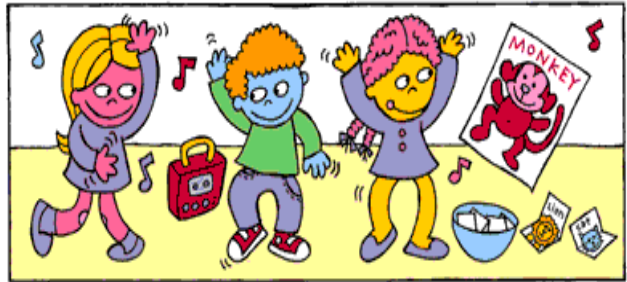
HOW TO PLAY THE GAME:

1. Place the lid on the container or your hand over the top, gently shake up the beans, and then dump them out.
2. Separate the beans by colour and create an addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division problem using the given numbers. Example: 3 red beans + 7 blue beans = 10

18. Animal Charade

WHAT YOU NEED:

1. Five to ten index cards or small paper
2. Animal stickers, crayons, or markers
3. A bowl
4. A rock 'n' roll tape, CD, or (old-fashioned) record album



HOW TO MAKE THE ANIMAL CHARADE GAME:

1. Instruct each child to put a picture of a different animal on an index card.
2. The kids can draw the animal and/or attach an animal sticker. Fold each card in half.
3. Place the finished cards in a bowl.
4. Ask one child to pick a card out of the bowl. Which animal is it? Turn up the music and invite all the kids to dance to the beat as that animal. (A monkey might leap around, an elephant would surely shake her trunk, and a pig might lie on her back and wiggle!)
5. Freeze! Stop the music and have everybody freeze in place. Who looks the silliest?

19. Can-Cans

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1. Empty cans (e.g. Pringle or coffee)
2. Construction paper
3. Old magazines
4. Glue sticks
5. White glue



WHAT TO DO:

1. Search through the magazines for pictures of things you can do like ride a bike, read a book, cook, play sports, etc.
2. Cover the can with your favourite colour of construction paper to create a background for your collage.
3. Cut out the pictures and use glue to cover the outside of the can with pictures of all the things you are capable of doing.
4. The type and size of can you use will influence how you use it. You might use it as a desk organizer, a pencil box, a treasure box, etc.
5. This is a great project for building self esteem at the same time that you promote re-use. If you do it as a group, have members of the group write compliments to each other to either add to the outside of the can or to store inside it.

20. Bonko

WHAT YOU NEED:

1. tin cans (you'll need at least 3 cans of the same size)
2. can opener
3. sturdy tape (masking tape is okay, but plastic packing tape or duct tape works best)
4. towel and pencil

TIPS ON CANS:

Bonkos made from cans of different sizes will all sound different. Try making Bonkos from little cans (like soup), bigger cans (like dog food), or really big cans (like tomato juice or Hawaiian Punch). With a set of Bonkos, your whole family can make some interesting music together.

You can plan ahead and save your cans as you use them. Or you can do what the Fowler family did--plan a special dinner of canned foods and create your Bonkos after you eat.

Make sure that your cans have flat bottoms that you can cut off with a can opener. Cans with rounded bottoms won't work.

WHAT DO I DO:



1. Ask a grown-up to use the can opener to cut off the bottoms of all of the cans-except one. Leave the bottom on that one. (If you're using different sizes of cans, make sure one can of each size has a bottom.)
2. Wash the insides of the cans and let them dry. (Be careful of the cut edges: They might be sharp.)
3. Take a can that still has a bottom and put it on the counter, open end up. Put another can of the same size on top of it. Tape them together.
4. Put the next can on top of the other two, and tape it to them. Now you have a Bonko that's three cans long, with one closed end and one open end. (You can also make a four- or five-can Bonko if you have enough cans.)
5. Put a towel down on your kitchen floor. Hold your Bonko open end up, and bonk it up and down on the towel. Try making different sounds. You can make your own rhythms by bonking faster or slower, softer or harder. If you hold your hand over the opening as you bonk, does that change the sound?



21. Dream catcher

WHAT YOU NEED:

1. CD's (one per dream catcher)
2. String (embroidery floss works nice)
3. White glue
4. Paint brush (for applying glue to cod)
5. Colored sand
6. Glitter
7. Pony beads
8. Feathers
9. Drill (small holes--approx 1/8 inch)

HOW TO MAKE A DREAM CATCHER:

1. Drill holes in a CD - about 4, more if you like, approximately 1 cm from the edge.
2. Loop a piece of string through one hole at "top" of CD to hang disc. Tie strings approximately 25 cm long through 3 (or more) holes toward bottom of disc.
3. Apply glue to entire disc (label side). Sprinkle sand and glitter into glue to cover label and allow to dry.
4. These can be re-glued and re-sanded/glittered if you do not like the results the first time. This will also add Texture to project.
5. String beads onto threads. Use one extra bead to tie off at end of string. Push feathers up into beads.
6. Hang and enjoy!



22. Tambourine

WHAT YOU NEED:

1. Paper plate, paper and things to decorate plate with
2. Beans, rice or seeds



HOW TO MAKE THE TAMBOURINE:

1. Decorate a paper plate the way you would like it to look. You can tape strips of construction paper or crepe to it.
2. Fold the paper plate in half and fill it with beans or rice. Have an adult staple it closed. Shake and tap your tambourine.

23. Snake

WHAT YOU NEED:

1. 100 metal bottle caps
2. A wooden block
3. Hammer and large nail
4. Tapestry needle
5. 60 cm length of red wool
6. A cork and glue
7. Beads or buttons for eyes



HOW TO MAKE THE SNAKE:

1. To start, one by one, set each bottle cap right side up on the wooden block and use the hammer and nail to make a hole in the center of it. Then thread the needle with the yarn, tie a knot at the opposite end, and string the caps onto the yarn.
2. For the head, first hammer a pilot hole lengthwise through the cork, then thread the yarn through. (Tip: You may need pliers to pull the needle all the way through.)
3. Knot the yarn, leaving an extra 5 cm for the snake's tongue, then trim the excess yarn. Finally, glue on the beads or buttons for the critter's eyes.

24. Making Paper

Recycle your old paper and make new, unique paper that you can't buy in any store!

What do you need?

1. Stiff wire screen
2. Old Paper
3. Bowl
4. Water
5. Blender
6. Iron
7. Dish pan
8. Rags (use smooth cloth, not terry cloth)

Recycling paper at home is fun and easy, but it can be messy.

What to do?

1. With the help of an adult, bend the sharp edges of the wire screen over and flatten them. You can also make a wooden frame and then staple the wire screen onto it.
2. Tear white scrap paper into small pieces. Then place the torn paper into a bowl of warm water and soak for 15 minutes.
3. Put the soaked paper in the blender with equal amounts of water and blend the mixture until it is mushy. Do not fill the blender more than half-full.
4. Pour the blended pulp into the dish pan. Add a gallon of warm tap water. You should now have a thin slurry of paper pulp.
5. Tilt the screen away from you, and dip it into the pan with a smooth motion. Hold the screen level under the water, then lift it out of the pan slowly and smoothly. There should be an even layer of pulp sitting on the screen. Tilt the screen slightly to let excess water run off.
6. Set the screen in a safe place to let the pulp dry for a little while (30 minutes)
7. Lay a soft, absorbent towel or rag flat out on a table and quickly flip the screen over onto it – pulp side down. Do this step in one quick motion so the dried pulp doesn't have a chance to slide off. Blot the back of the screen with another rag to absorb an excess water. Gently peel the screen from the sheet. This process of blotting and removing the fresh sheet of paper is called "couching"
8. Let the paper air-dry or place another cloth over it and have an adult iron it dry and flat. Peel it away while still damp so it doesn't stick to the cloth. Save the leftover pulp by freezing it, or throw it away.

25. Acknowledgement

SOAPKidz would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge and thank the various websites and people that have contributed ideas and content to this recycling initiative.

Sunrise On Africa's Peaks Kidz



- SUNRISE ON AFRICA'S PEAKS' KIDZ (SOAPKIDZ) IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION AND HAS BEEN ACTIVE SINCE APRIL 2005.
- SOAPKIDZ CREATES ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND PROMOTES NATURE CONSERVATION AMONGST THE PRECIOUS CHILDREN IN AFRICA.
- SOAPKIDZ HAS REACHED 4623 PEOPLE SINCE APRIL 2005 AND HAS PICKED UP MORE THAN 1000 BAGS OF LITTER.
- SOAPKIDZ' MISSION IS TO EXPOSE THE CHILDREN OF AFRICA TO NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS, WHERE THE BREATH OF GOD ON THEIR SKIN, WILL FILL THEM WITH AWARENESS, PASSION, LAUGHTER, TRUST, COMPASSION, LOVE, ACCEPTANCE, FREEDOM AND COMPANIONSHIP.
- WITH THE HELP OF VARIOUS OUTDOOR ACTIVITY GROUPS AS WELL AS VOLUNTEERS, WE TEACH CHILDREN ABOUT: NATURE, THE PRESERVATION THEREOF, SELF PRESERVATION, LIFE, FRIENDSHIP, LOYALTY, TRUST, COURAGE, TEAMWORK ETC.
- EVERY ACTIVITY INCORPORATES ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN UP PROJECTS WITH A PRIZE FOR THE TEAM WHO COLLECTS THE MOST LITTER.

"It is pure magic when kids and nature meet"

TOGETHER, WE DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



This booklet was

compiled by SOAPKidz.

www.soapkidz.org (2008)