



Conservation

CONSERVATION means not being wasteful. Conservation means protecting natural resources such as soil, water, forests, and minerals from loss and pollution.

Activity 1

Ask your child the meaning of the word **CONSERVATION**. Explain that conservation means to not be wasteful. Emphasize that conservation means protecting natural resources such as soil, water, forests, and minerals from loss and pollution. Discuss with your child why each of these resources is important. (Some ideas include: food is grown in soil, water is important for drinking and cleaning, forests are where animals and plants live, minerals are important to our health.) Together, with your child, plan ways that your family can help care for the environment. Examples could include: recycling cans or newspapers, conserving water, turning off lights when not in use, etc. As an extended activity, help your child calculate how much money could be saved if all the lights were turned off when not in use or if water was conserved more consciously at home.

Activity 2

Play a game of "What If" with your child, asking questions such as:

- What if there was no water?
- What if there were no trees?
- What if there was no clean air?
- What if there was no gasoline?
- What if there was no electricity?

Decide which one, if any, your family could live without. Help your child understand that these resources are not limitless. Explain that it is important for everyone to help protect our world. As an extended activity, get your family to participate in a community service project in your area that raises the awareness of environmental protection.

Activity 3

Talk with your child about the importance of conserving natural resources such as water and forests. Have fun with your child thinking of all the benefits that come from having these resources. For example, ask him or her to name some of the things that trees provide. Examples could include: shade on hot summer days, shelter and food to birds and animals, a place to climb or swing, etc. Explain that trees can make our world cooler in the summer (by shading the heat from the sun), warmer in the winter (by breaking the cold winds), and help to keep the air clean (by giving off oxygen and absorbing pollutants). With your child, plant a tree seedling in a cup or recycled milk carton; help your child tend it, and watch it grow. When it is big enough, find a place to plant it outside.

Activity 4

Explore the benefits of recycling with your child. Together, create a T-chart to show the uses for recycled products. Write the words *Recycled Products* on one side of the T-chart and the word *Uses* on the other. Consider how many things on the chart your family recycles. Together, determine how many more things you can recycle. Consider recycling as a family project.

Activity 5

Discuss with your child fun things that he or she enjoys doing outside, like having a picnic in a park, riding bikes, swimming, playing chase, and riding in a boat. Ask your child to explain what it means to show respect for the environment. (Protect and care for nature, use resources wisely.) Plan a family project that shows respect for the Earth. (Plant a butterfly garden, build a bird feeder, recycle, etc.) As an extended activity spend some time outdoors with your child on a Nature Scavenger Hunt. Make a list of things for them to find and talk about why each item is important as you search together. Customize your list to fit the area where you live. Items on the list could include a rock, leaf, twig, flower, bug, bird, animals, etc. Share your feelings about the importance of caring for our world.