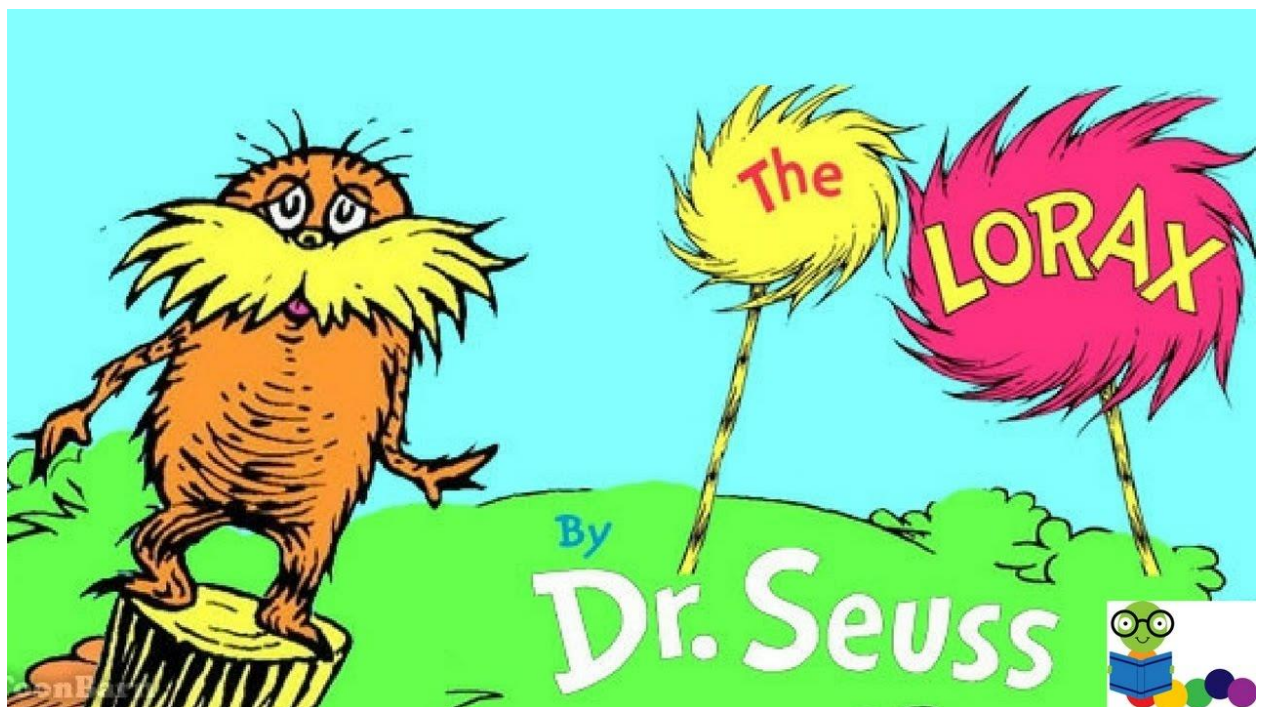


# Teaching Kids Environmental Responsibility

Teaching children to be good citizens includes educating them about how to be environmentally responsible. Learning to live an Earth friendly lifestyle doesn't have to be a chore; it should just be a lifestyle that you and your family adapt. But, discussing the larger issues of over consumerism, global warming, and habitat destruction can be difficult to broach. Here are some fun and easy ways from [writing essays online](#) to getting even Earth's youngest citizens to understand their role and the significance of living a globally responsible lifestyle.

## 1. Read the Lorax.

Written by Dr. Seuss in 1971, this story about the plight of the environment was released even before the current issues of global warming came to light for most of the population. In classic Dr. Seuss style, the book uses rhyming and engaging illustrations to allow children to gain a deeper understanding about how things like corporate greed and irresponsible progress and development can have a detrimental impact on nature and the environment. Families can use this book to put current events and issues into context for children.



## 2. Make It Fun.

Learning about the environment can be fun. Environmental education easily lends itself to hands on activities. Children can learn about cause and effect and how their actions can easily lead to change. Take children outdoors to learn about the environment where they can get their hands dirty and see their work in action. Children learn to enjoy living green when it is tied to something positive and fun; going green shouldn't feel like a chore.



## 3. Get Involved with The Community.

Consider joining a community based environmental initiative with your children. Allowing them to be a part of a community wide effort gives them the opportunity to see how everyone's actions together can help or hurt the environment. It will also give them the opportunity to make connections with others and be a part of something larger than themselves.





#### 4. Be a Green Living Role Model.

Be a green living role model for your children. They learn from your example and your actions teach them what you value. Don't litter, allow them to see you turning off lights when you leave a room and the water when you brush your teeth. Show them that living an environmentally friendly life is easy and good. And, discuss your actions with them. Let them know why you choose to recycle and use reusable shopping bags so they understand that it's about more than just being trendy.



#### 5. Make It a Movie Night.

Sometimes kids really can learn from what they see on television. On your next family movie night consider viewing a film with an environmental message, then take the time to discuss the message and why it's important with your children. A good animated choice would be the film adaptation of *The Lorax* or *Wall-E*, a Pixar film about a robot that develops emotions while cleaning up a trash covered Earth. The film brings to life issues of consumerism and caring for the environment for children. If you'd like a documentary to share with your family, *Born to Be Wild*, a film about

orphaned elephants and chimpanzees is both entertaining and educational as it touches on the ways environmental encroachment and poaching are driving Earth's most adorable species to extinction.



Teaching your children to appreciate the planet and live an environmentally responsible life doesn't have to be a huge undertaking; even small changes can make a difference. It's most important that they just learn how their choices affect their surroundings, and the consequences of those actions on the Earth's longevity.