Welcome

Kermit the Frog

We are here today to talk about how to inspire children to care for the environment through the use of children’s literature.

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“Treat the earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors, we borrow it from our Children.”

- Ancient Native American Proverb

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This year at SUNY Orange, we have a Global Initiative to study the issue of sustainability in all areas/disciplines at the college.
In the Educ. Dept we have been thinking about how to raise an environmentally conscious generation of children.

A generation that, just as they can’t imagine life without computers, can’t imagine a life where they would not conserve resources or recycle....

5 Steps for Effective Environmental Education

- **Learner-Oriented** – Programs support the development of personal meaning through the learning process, with emphasis on age-appropriateness and ongoing (even life-long) learning
- **Promotes Wonder** – Programs incorporate inquiry and discovery-based approaches that build appreciation for the natural and built environment
- **In Context of Place/Community** – Programs place learning in the context of the local, relate directly to the learner’s life and culture, and encourage civic engagement
- **Action-Oriented** – Programs incorporate approaches that are hands-on, address real problems, and build confidence and hope
- **Focus on Relationships** – Programs forge connections across and outward from specific areas of study – integrate across issues such as water quality, energy production and economic development; cross disciplinary boundaries of academic subjects such as science and language arts; connect classroom and out-of-school learning; relate the local to the regional and global.

Rachel Carson the person who brought conservation to the public eye years ago wrote an article in Women’s Home Companion in 1956 entitled “Help your child to wonder”

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And finally in the area of Language Arts

The environment is a wonderful source of story problems for children:
- Endangered animals: Swan Song
- Cleaning up pollution (Michael Recycle)
- Diminishing Habitats

Writing persuasive letters to:
- congressmen (laws)
- mayor (parks, recycling)
- store owners (recycling, crayons)
- parents
- letters to the editor
Slide 11

Language Arts - writing

- Story problem
- Persuasive letters
- Skits
- Songs/Raps

Skits: ex. Write a skit about a person who tries to convince others to save the environment

Songs: Write your own verse to “This Pretty Planet” or write a conservation song to a familiar tune

Rap: Write a rap about recycling, etc.

Slide 12

Language Arts - reading

Non-fiction
- Why Should I? books
- Take Action books
- Real-life models
- Extinct Animals
- Biography

We sometimes struggle to integrate non-fiction books, but this topic has many of great quality:

- Why should I?
- Take Action: Show samples
- Real-life models: Fernando’s Gift, Come Back Salmon
- Extinct Animals (Swan Song)
- Biography: Rachel Carson

Slide 13

Language Arts - reading

Fiction
- Picture Books
- Read Alouds
- Independent Reading
- Author Study
- Thematic Unit

Chapter Books
- Series

Picture Books

- Great Read Alouds: Just a Dream, The Salamander Room
- Author Study: Lynne Cherry
- Tree Theme (The Tree, A Possible Tree,

Chapter Books

- Hoot
- Gaia Girls, Nat. Geographic: Mysteries in our National Parks series (12)
Literature Review

- READ
- PAIR
- SHARE

- One sentence summary of plot/content
- Unit(s) it would enhance
- One possible follow-up activity

Green Internet

Teacher Resource Sites
- http://www.environmentaleducationohio.org/inquirylessons.html

On the resource guide, I have a link to a summer institute for Sustainability Education CELF Children's environmental literacy
Green Internet

Student Sites

http://urbanext.illinois.edu/woods/

http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/kids_home.cfm

http://pbskids.org/eekoworld/index.html

A Growing Up Green Resource list of the literature, music, and websites I used in this presentation, in addition to many more, can be found at http://sunyorange.edu/education/docs/growingupgreenresources.pdf