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Saturday December 2nd, 2017

Saturday Enrichment Program - Harlem Grown

**Sustainability and Repurposing Workshop**

For my Semester Project, I developed a workshop for the children that are part to the Saturday Enrichment Program. This program has children aged 5-14 years old and includes them in activities that teach them about urban farming, food justice, and community resilience. My workshop focused on talking to the children, and hopefully teaching them, about what sustainability is and which practices are sustainable and which are not. First, I began with discussing what pollution and climate change are, having the children give examples for each thing we discussed. We then moved onto sustainability, where we began an interactive lesson. I showed the children pictures of various things and actions (factories, biking, deforestation, etc.), which they then had to classify as sustainable or unsustainable and place it under the correct category on a poster board. After finishing the first activity, we moved on to speaking about reuse and repurposing and why that is a sustainable practice. With that in mind, the children and I began our second activity of making flower pots from items that I brought and was planning to throw out (plastic sand-castle mold beach toy, glass yogurt cup, metal can, etc.). The purpose of this activity was to show the children how they could potentially reuse and repurpose items from their home instead of throwing them out and creating more waste. With both activities I was hoping to teach the children about practices that impact their health and the health of their environment, and doing so in a fun and interactive way.

Discussion

“ So today we are going to talk about things that are good and bad for the environment. Can you tell me what I mean by environment? What is it””

Environment- everything living and nonliving in our surroundings. But usually when we speak about the environment, like what is good and bad for it, we are speaking about the natural environment such as the animals, plants, water, land, and air

““We have all these things in our environment that allow us to live healthy lives but unfortunately we have been polluting our planet for many years. Do you guys know what pollution is?””

Pollution- the contamination or dirting of the environment by waste, chemicals, and other harmful things

The main forms of pollution are

Air:

* gases ( like co2 which is not so bad for humans but bad for the environment in large amounts) and pollutants ( bad to breathe in)

Water :

* chemicals from construction, factories, even our homes
* Plastic filling our waters

Land : same as water

* chemicals that are toxic and hurt our land so we can’t grow food
* Garbage - landfills

Climate Change

“ Because we have had so much pollution, especially with gases( like co2), we have been experiencing some changes in the climate. Has anyone heard of climate change?”

Climate - weather over a period of time

Climate change - change in the weather patterns over a period of time

CO2

* When people and animals breathe out they give out co2 > plants and trees take it and make it into oxygen> we breathe it in and breathe out co2 - cycle
* But we have been producing a lot of co2 with other things ( which we will talk about later)
* It gets into the atmosphere and stays there and the heat that comes into earth can’t get out and we have global warming

Effects:

Storms

* hurricanes

Heat waves

* unusually hot weather

Drought

* because it is so hot, some places don’t get rain and experience drought where their plants don’t get watered and food can not be produced

Fires

* again, so hot that it can start large fires

Sea level rise

* hot > melts glaciers in the ocean> the water level rises and places on the coast can be flooded

Floods

* storm and sea level rise

“ So if these bad things are happening, what can we do?”

* we can be more sustainable!

“Does anyone know what sustainability is?”

Sustainability- maintaining the we live in so that we can get what we need but in a way so that we don’t hurt the future generations

* we have to make sure our resources last and that we are not hurting the environment that is giving us these resources

ACTIVITY 1

Overview: I put up a poster board that had “Sustainable” written on one side and “Unsustainable” written on the other. I had pictures of several different things (factories,solar panels, vegetables, etc.) and actions ( biking, planting trees, composting, etc.), and the children had to decide whether they thought they were sustainable or unsustainable based on what we talked about beforehand. They placed the pictures on the board in the correct section.

Solar energy

* these panels get their energy from the sun.
* “ what are fossil fuels?” - oil, natural gas, coal
* When you burn them ( which we do to power things) they emit co2
* Solar does not use those things, it’s just the power of the sun being used for electricity

Landfills

* Mountains of garbage that go no where
* Take up space that could be used for parks and homes

Recycling

* Reusing the things we would otherwise throw out to a landfill

Deforestation

* We need trees to breath so not only is it bad for us, but also bad because we have less trees to take up all the co2 we are making

Planting trees

* Like we said before, trees take in co2 and since we have so much, it’s good to have more trees to suck it up

Cars

* Most cars use gas (fossil fuel)
* Release carbon emissions, pollution

Eating fresh produce/ locally grown food

* Less packaging on food ( less waste) and if you eat from local farms (like Harlem Grown) the food travels less and you don’t produce co2 like we said that cars do

Factories

* Do you ever see the smoke coming out of factories? Do you think that’s good?
* No, they use a lot of energy ( fossil fuels) to make things ( power their machines) and also emit a lot of bad pollutants ( co2 and other gases)

Supermarkets

* The food is processed ( not good for us) packaged ( waste) and then travel a long way to get to the store (co2)

Compost

* Recycling food
* Instead of adding to landfills, we can make soil from the food to plant more foods

Wasting water

* What is the girl doing? Washing up is good, but is it good to keep the water running long? What about long showers?
* Not good, wasting clean water and we have less and less clean water bc of climate change and pollution

Biking

* No use of gas like car( no fossil fuels) bc we use our own energy. Good for us and the environment!

Plastic bags/ bottles

* Waste a lot of energy making them and then they end up in landfills or in our oceans. Millions of them polluting our land and hurting our animals( think that it is food and eat it)

Reusable bags/ bottles

* If you’re reusing, you’re not making many (wasting energy to make) and not throwing out ( not adding to landfill)

REUSING AND REPURPOSING

“ Can you tell me what you think repurposing means? What does purpose mean?”

Repurposing- reusing something by giving it a different purpose/use than it was made for

ACTIVITY 2

Materials :

* Old containers, toys, materials that would otherwise be thrown out ( cans, jars, tupperware, yogurt containers, sandbox toys, etc.)
* Soil
* Seeds
* Water
* Paint
* Glue
* Decorations ( pom poms, googly eyes, glitter)

Activity :

The kids pick a container ( or bring one from home) and can decorate them as they wish. Help them decorate and make the experience fun for them. While decorating, have them see how it can be fun and resourceful to make something out of things you already have. When the decorations are done and dried, have the children put soil in them, pick a seed they want to see grow, and water their plant.







