

Packaging Promenade

Help your child to become aware of product packaging. Discuss the benefits of the packaging as well as the negatives. After use, ask your child to help organizing the recycling. (Some locations require separation of glass, plastic, and aluminum. In others, "single stream" recycling systems make it possible to use a single recycling container.) Make the point that only clean items should be placed in the recycle container. Children should not handle garbage unless closely supervised by an adult.



Counting Leftovers

Create a graph that compares the number of glass, plastic, and aluminum packages in your household that go into the recycling system. Use some large paper or cardboard (why not flatten a carton you would be recycling?) and work with your child to outline squares in the necessary columns. Then, each time a package is placed into recycling the child can color a square. At the end of a given time (a week, a month) you can compare the types of packaging that your family are using and determine if it is possible to reduce that number. Keep your eye out for safety—watch cans and bottles for sharp edges.