

# LITTER SONGS

Litter is still a very visible waste problem. Litter is typically packaging generated by consumers that is carelessly on the ground instead of in a recycling bin or trash bin. Littering is a completely avoidable problem – we can simply put our items into the recycling or trash bin (or reuse them)! Picking up litter is an easy way to protect land and water and to teach children about the environment.

## Outcomes

Parents and children will learn about cleaning up the environment and picking up litter with songs.

## Audience

Youth (ages 2-8), parents and children

## Time

Variable; 10 - 60 minutes

## Concepts

- Littering is avoidable.
- Use songs to reinforce the idea of keeping the planet clean.
- It is easy and fun to clean up the planet.

## Supplies

- Any clean items of to represent garbage or recycling
- Trash can or recycling bin



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## Preparation

Adults should learn the lyrics and tune of the songs.

## Procedure

- Sing the songs to children participants to get them familiar with the lyrics and tune.
- Families can sing the song and help children practice picking up items from the floor and throwing them away in the trash can or recycling bin.
- Suggested songs (courtesy of Minneapolis Early Childhood Family Education Curriculum Families for Saving the Environment by Janet Craig and Annette Gagliardi)
  1. **Litter song** —  
to the tune of *London Bridge is Falling Down*
    - Let's look for litter and pick it up,
    - Pick it up, pick it up.
  
    - Let's look for litter and pick it up,
    - We'll help our earth stay clean.
  2. **Litter is Garbage** —  
to the tune of *The Wheels on the Bus*
    - Litter is garbage that wasn't put away,
    - Wasn't put away, wasn't put away.
  
    - Litter is garbage that wasn't put away
    - In the garbage can.
  
    - I put my garbage in the garbage can,
    - In the garbage can, in the garbage can,
  
    - I put my garbage in the garbage can,
    - I'm not a litter bug.
  3. **There is a Planet Not So Clean** —  
to the tune of *BINGO*
    - There is a planet not so clean
    - And Earth is its name-o.
    - Let's clean up the Earth
    - Let's clean up the Earth
    - Let's clean up the Earth
    - And try to save our planet.
  
    - There is a planet not so clean
    - And Earth is its name-o.
    - E-A-R-T-H, E-A-R-T-H, E-A-R-T-H
    - And Earth is its name-o!

## Discussion questions

- Have you ever littered? Why do you think people litter?
- Will you start picking up litter more now when you see it on the ground?
- What are barriers to people putting their items into the recycling or trash bin? How can recycling and trash bins be more accessible everywhere?
- Did you find any litter that could have been recycled? How did you know it was recyclable? How will you encourage others to recycle items instead of littering or throwing them in the trash?
- Do you have other ideas for songs about the environment?

## Additional activity ideas

### Litter pick up for older youth

To take action to reduce litter, older youth (with adult supervision) can go outside and pick up litter around their house, school or neighborhood. Participants

should be aware of which dangerous items they shouldn't pick up and participants should wear protective gloves.

Remember to properly dispose of litter items.