

Hooray! School's out for summer. Here's our take on the things you can do to keep the children entertained while getting them thinking and learning about recycling.

All the ideas below are not only lots of fun, they're also environmentally friendly as you don't need to print them out! Only minimum resources are needed too.

So, why not encourage your child's creativity, get them doing their bit for the planet, and help spread the word with your friends and family?



1. Make a piece of recycling art

From boxes and plastic bottles to plastic film, packets and trays, there's loads of material in your recycling bin to make an amazing piece of modern art. Don't forget to clean the recycling before you use it and be careful because some things can be quite sharp. When you've finished, share your masterpiece with your friends and family and don't forget to share it with us at Co-op too!



Test your friends and family by creating anagrams of our five most recycled products and see how many they can get. The top five are: crisp packets, fruit bags, bread bags, pasta bags, and pizza film. Just mix up the letters and challenge your family to work out the correct answers. It's also a great way for them to remember what plastic they can now recycle at Co-op.



But not just any old poem! See if you can create a poem with seven lines where each line starts with the next letter in the word RECYCLE - so R for line one, E for line two, and so on. When you're finished, why not share it, read it out loud and record it to send to your friends and to us at Co-op.



Make some cardboard box drums, put elastic bands around a clean margarine tub to create a guitar sound, put peas in plastic bottles for maracas - there's lots of ways to make music using recycling. Practise and play your favourite tune on them and see if your friends and family can guess what the tune is.



Don't forget to share what you're up to with Co-op

Make sure to share anything your child does on Twitter or Instagram using #Coopjoinin or you can upload them for us here: www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Z85CCG/
We'll be compiling the best and featuring them on our Co-op blog.



5. Take the master recycler challenge

Find out more about recycling and have a go at our online quiz here: www.ahaslides.com/COOPKIDS
See how you do on our leaderboard against other young people across the UK. If grown-ups want in on the act, then here's a quiz just for them here:

www.ahaslides.com/COOPQUIZ

- let's see how well they do!



Posters are a great way to remind people to recycle. Why not create a fab poster to remind your family what types of things go in the recycling? To make them extra special try using some recycled bits and pieces on your poster and make it a collage.



Cardboard boxes around the house from deliveries?

Next time you have one try taking the Big Box challenge.

See if you can you turn your box into 5 different things to play with. A fort, a plane, a robot, a train - let your imagination run wild. Once you've created one, take a picture then make the next. Can you create 5 things all from the same box? Remember to take care, boxes can sometimes be sharp, so make sure an adult has checked it over for you to remove anything that might hurt and be careful if using scissors!



Grab some stones from the garden, clean them and paint them up with a fab recycling or environmental image. On the bottom ask the finder to let you know they found it using #cooprecyclingrocks and to re-hide what they found. Once the rock is nice and dry it's time to go hide them around your community. Give your friends and family some clues and see who else finds them.



Create a brand-new super hero who is amazing at recycling. What would they be called, how about their costume, what are their super powers? Draw your new hero, give them a name and make sure you share your creations.



You can now recycle soft plastic film at Co-op. It's the type of plastic that is hard to recycle anywhere else. Why not help the family start recycling their soft plastic? First up you need to **clean it** - rinse your packaging out. Then **scrunch it** up tight - if it pings back, it's most likely the right kind of plastic. And then **Co-op it** - pop it into our soft plastics recycling unit at a Co-op near you. Share a selfie of you popping your plastic in the recycling unit to let us know you're doing your bit.

