

Recycle more with your kids

How many times have you heard “go green for your children’s future”? Well, get them engaged in their own future by getting them involved with household recycling. It’s a great opportunity to build your child’s skills and knowledge, sense of responsibility, and have fun!

Do you recycle?

It’s okay whether your answer is “yes”, “no” or “not much.” What matters is that you are committed to increasing your household’s recycling. Sit down with your kids and visit [RecycleSpot.org](https://www.RecycleSpot.org) to find out what recycling services are offered in your community. Services often include curbside recycling, recycling centers or both. You can also find information on items that you weren’t sure about or had no idea were recyclable.

Fun tip: Have your kids throw out the name of an item, type it in, and see if it can be recycled. You’ll be amazed at how many things can be recycled right here in the Kansas City metro area.

Recycling room by room

Your family probably generates trash in every room of your house, so think about the best way for you to start recycling in every room.

If you’re already recycling in your kitchen, think about how you can kick it up a notch. Perhaps you could add a countertop compost container.

Fun tip: Ask your kids what types of trash come from which rooms in your house. Have them make signs with pictures of those items and post them in each room as a reminder to recycle.

Set up a station

A recycling station helps you increase your household’s recycling. Have your kids help you “build” your station. Ask them:

- Where should we build it? Some possibilities include the garage, the laundry room, or the back porch.
- What are we going to collect? A station can be as simple as clearing a space to put your curbside bin or as complex as having separate bins for scrap metal, plastic bags, aluminum foil, glass, compost, a donation box and more.
- How should we set it up? Some possibilities include putting containers on the floor, on shelves, in cabinets, or if they’re stackable, on top of each other.

Fun tip: Let your kids decorate the recycling station. It can look like a fort, a fairy castle, a store – the possibilities are endless!

Logistically speaking

Whether you have curbside recycling or you take your materials to a recycling center, a good time to collect and organize your recyclables is on trash day. Assign the following duties to your kids as appropriate:

- Collection – Take all trash and recyclables in your home to the station for sorting.
- Sort – Make sure the right materials go in the right bins.
- Set out – If you have curbside recycling, set the bins out according to your community or hauler requirements.

Fun tip: Appoint a “green sheriff.” As your home’s green sheriff, your child can be in charge of recycling for the month. They can collect, instruct and keep the recycling laws in your land. A special badge and certificate on the wall can make it official.

For more information on recycling, visit [RecycleSpot.org](https://www.recycle-spot.org) the Kansas City metro area’s one–stop spot for recycling, reuse and waste reduction information.