RECYCLING SCAVENGER HUNT

This scavenger hunt will help show your children what can go in the recycling (blue) bin and what can go in the trash (green) bin. It’s important for us to recycle in order to reduce the amount of trash that makes it into our landfills; but not everything can be recycled, and if it’s done incorrectly, it takes a lot of time and manpower to sort it all out. So have fun with your kids in this activity and help them figure out what can and cannot be recycled! We have compiled a quick list of common household items at the end of the activity to help get you started.

1. Designate a space in your yard or an open room in your house and place a variety of items around the space - some that can and cannot be recycled and some that can be recycled with a modification. Make sure to set the boundaries of the space so nothing is accidentally discarded.

Note: This game is based off information on the City of Miami and Miami-Dade County websites. If you do not live in Miami-Dade County, we suggest looking on your own county’s website to see if their requirements are any different.

Note: If you use cardboard boxes, remove or pre-slice the tape so it’s easier to flatten if you want to properly
Separate two bins, one for "trash" and one for "recycling". If you want to take this step even further, you can color them green (trash) and blue (recycling) to represent actual garbage bins!

Note: Make sure to have them modify certain things (i.e. removing bottle caps and straws or flattening boxes).

Have your children find each item on the list and place it in the bin they think it should go in. If they put it in the correct bin, check that item off the list or place a sticker on it.

Make your own scavenger hunt list using the items you placed around the space.

Once they are done, have them help you bring your recyclables to your own (blue) bin!
There’s a lot of things that can’t be recycled, but that doesn’t mean they can’t be used for other things. Look at all the things that can’t be recycled with your child and ask them if they think those items can be reused in another way. Can the plastic bags from the grocery store be used as small trash bags for when your dog uses the potty? Can anything be reused in sculptures or artwork like we do at the museum?

For an extra challenge, or more information, explore what can and cannot be recycled on these websites to add more items to your scavenger hunt!

https://www.miamidade.gov/global/solidwaste/recycling-a-to-z.page
things to recycle:

- Printer Paper
- Juice Cartons (without the straw)
- Shampoo Containers (remove the cap)
- Tin Soup Cans
- Glass Bottles (unbroken)
- Soda Cans
- Newspapers
- Cereal Boxes (flatten first)
- Water bottles (without the cap)
- Cardboard Boxes (flatten first)

things NOT to recycle:

- Styrofoam Containers
- Plastic Bag
- Aerosol Cans
- Pizza Box
- Cooking Pots
- CDs or DVDs
- Plastic Silverware
- Light Bulbs
- Batteries

Have Fun!