



Woodland Early Learning Center Celebrates Earth Day With Eco-Healthy Practices and Tips for Parents

Woodland Early Learning Center operated by CCLC, celebrates Earth Day every day by following eco-healthy practices. Endorsed as an Eco-Healthy Childcare Center by the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) since October 2008, it is officially recognized as a safe and healthy environment for children with reduced exposure to toxins in and around the facility.

“We follow a variety of environmental quality standards as an Eco-Healthy center,” said Brandy Southard, Woodland Early Learning Center Center Director. “For example, we only use non-toxic cleaning products, we have an established recycle program and we only offer toxin-free supplies in our classrooms for art.”

To help promote earth-friendly habits Woodland Early Learning Center is offering CCLC employees suggestions on activities you can do at home with your family. Activities include:

- **Reduce, Reuse and Recycle** – Start a recycling program at home. Help your child label plastic bins for paper, plastic, glass and aluminum. Set-up a recycling station in a convenient location where all family members are encouraged to participate and deposit items.
- **Get Outdoors** – Go on a nature walk to explore your neighborhood or nearby park. Pick up any debris/trash you find along the way. Talk to your children about littering and important role they can play in keeping our planet clean.
- **Grow a Green Thumb** – Plant a tree together in your backyard. Involve your child in the tree and site selection. Honor Earth Day each year by taking a picture of your family with the tree. Over the years, your child will enjoy watching “their tree” – and themselves – grow. If space and time is an issue, start small by planting herbs in a pot. As the herbs grow, your child will love to pick herbs to help prepare your next family meal.
- **Spring Clean Your Cleaning Products** -- Replace harsh household cleaners with earth-friendly, non-toxic cleaning products. A wide variety of inexpensive products are available in your local grocery store. Involve your child by having them help make a shopping list, or help with the first cleaning!
- **Read About All About It** – Visit your local library and select books with a tie to the environment to read together with your child. Some favorites include *Uno’s Garden* by Graeme Base, *A Quiet Place* by Douglas Wood and Dan Andreasen, and *10 Things I Can Do To Help My World* by Melanie Walsh.