

Harmony House

Learning about Saving Energy with the help of our friend Guzzler

For the past 2 weeks we have been learning about how to save energy to help the environment

Week 1

During the 1st week at story-time we asked the children what is energy? And how can we save it? How do we get it? And what can we do at home to save energy?

We asked 1st what is electricity? This is what the children's answers were

"Electricity is power that helps things stay on" says C, "We need electricity every day to watch TV and turn on the lights" says K, "I need it for my tablet" said R. C replies "No electricity no telly".

What gives us energy, K said we need food to give us energy – what else? "Water" says A, "Cake" says E, "No" says C "Mammy says cake is bad for you, I say its ok on special occasions. We talk about how to dress for the winter, K says "Mammy puts our clothes in the tumble dryer," we say that we should try to dry our clothes outside.

We went around the room looking for ways to save energy. We pulled up the blinds to let in more light so we could turn off the lights. We checked to make sure we had stoppers in the sinks to save water. We were missing 1 so R said we will ask the Manager for 1 and she got it for us said K "we won't waste water anymore"

When the parents came the children had lots of info on how to save energy and sang their new song for them. One day after C's Mammy came into say "we had to eat in the dark last night as C said we have to turn off the lights to save energy, it was funny. They explained we need lights at night as long as you turn everything off when you finished.

Guzzler the book was great, the children really enjoyed it and had so many questions which we answered for them. R said Guzzler comes out at night to play with toys and C said he wastes electricity because he doesn't turn off anything and he is no good at saving energy. The parents said they have learned loads about energy, some children are insisting on walking to school so the parents don't drive their cars. D said "turn off all the lights when we don't need them", F said "turn off the water when you're finished." B said "the switches make everything work, so we talked about if we didn't have electricity then the switches wouldn't work.

Week 2

This week we were learning about recycling and what goes into which bin. We talked about the different bins: brown, blue and black, and what goes into each bin. We asked the parents to get involved and show children the bins they use at home, B said "I saw a black bin when I was coming to school". We talked about why we recycle and how it helps the environment and that all the recycle ones go into the blue bin and what we put into the brown bin the food we don't eat goes in here. We talked to the parents about what we were learning and that the children should come in with recycling to school.

The next day the children came in with cardboard, plastic and were so excited to show that they knew what bin it goes into. We made our Recycling Rubbish class poster. We explained about how paper is made and can be recycled into new paper products and talked about "Bobby the Box". C said you have to wash your cans first.

A said "food goes in the brown bin", D said "you put your dinner in the brown bin", C said "the other rubbish goes into the black bin. B said "bottles and paper into the blue bin" and J said "boxes and newspapers into the blue bin". A says "I give bread to the baby birds" we told her that was a lovely idea. E's dad told us that she threw her papers out on the road and during circle time we talked about this and that you find a bin to put your paper in if not then you keep the paper until you can find one as littering is not nice.

A staff member brought in a recycling lorry belonging to her child and the children loved it, we extended our play by bring the children out to see the recycling bin when it came to the school to collect our recycling rubbish. After lunch we put the blue bin and the brown bin out to see if the children would pick the right bin, they all did which was great to see. We put all on display for parents to see and they thought it was brilliant idea introducing it to the children and they loved it and felt that they were helping to save the world.