

5 Ways to "Green Your Kids"

The warm weather is here and your kids are excited and talking about all the fun activities they can do during the summer. Your pocket is saying: Humm! Think about all of the items you purchase regularly that can be reused, recycled, save your family money, keep your kids happy and busy during the summer months.

Many families spend thousands of dollars on toys and activities that can be made simply and inexpensively. With just a few supplies on hand and for purchase at your local discount stores, you can create and make your own toys, games and fun summer activities. If you desire ways to **"Green Your Kids"** here are some awesome ideas to get started.

All of these items came from my household and local discount stores.



Colorful Building Blocks

Materials: Two-half gallon card board containers (juice, punch or milk) washed with soapy water, scissors and colorful duck tape. Directions: Cut off the tops of the half-gallon containers, bend top edges of container one and fit into opening of the second. Cover with strips of duck tape and you have colorful blocks. You can use different shape and size boxes, baby wipe containers, and assortments of plastic containers to create building blocks. Your kids will have hours of fun, building and creating structures.



Musical Drums

Materials: A few small, empty, round cornmeal or oatmeal containers with lids, scissors, ribbon, or rope, colorful duck tape, hot glue-gun and hot glue gun sticks. **Directions:** Cut a small section of rope or ribbon, glue onto sides of container, creating a handle for carrying. Wrap rope around upper part of container, securing with hot glue. Secure lid on to container with hot glue. Cover with colorful duck tape.



A Tisket, A Tasket, A Colorful Spring Basket

Materials: Two plastic one-gallon jugs, scissors, colorful duck tape, rope, stickers, pictures, clear packing tape, glue stick, permanent marker. **Directions:** With scissors, cut off upper part of gallon jug, cover edges of container with colorful duck tape. Poke a hole on both sides of container with scissors. Thread rope through holes, knot rope, and secure knots with a small pieces of duck tape. Decorate with stickers or pictures and cover with clear packing tape.



Walking Stilts

Materials: Two empty cans, rope or shoestring 54', colorful duck tape, awl & permanent marker.
Directions: Mark both sides of cans with marker. With awl, punch a hole on both sides of can. Cover with colorful duck tape. Push shoe strings or rope through holes, securing knots on the inside of cans. Kids can stand on top of cans, holding onto ropes and practice walking on stilts.



Throw and Catch

Materials: Two plastic one -gallon jugs, scissors, colorful duck tape, black permanent marker, small ball. Directions: With permanent marker and gallon jugs, draw and cut out 2 scoopers. Use duck tape strips to cover the edges. Watch kids can play catch with scoopers and small balls.



If you want to save money and have fun, make these inexpensive toys and games and “**green your kids.**”

Check out our new toys and games



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