

How Long Till It's Gone?

What happens to our waste?

Every year we dump a massive 2.12 billion tonnes of waste! If all this waste was put into trucks they would go around the world 24 times. This is partly because 99% of the things we buy becomes waste within six months.

All this waste has to go somewhere:

Landfill - this is when our waste is taken away and buried in the ground. However, this ground can never be used again and the waste emits methane gases

Burnt - taken to a facility which will burn it to create energy, but this has a huge carbon impact

Recycled - the materials are broken down and reused again. This can only happen so many times and requires a lot of energy

Compost - this can only happen with organic material, which is left to decay and rot down creating fertiliser for growing

Making it real:

Re-Fill - look for containers which could be refilled, e.g., paint, glue etc

Waste Free Lunches - encourage those bringing in a packed lunch to use refillable containers rather than single use plastics

Shopping - visit a refill shop to see how existing containers get refilled and have a go

Community - set up your own swop shop for things like toys, books and even uniform for local schools the children may attend when transitioning up

Create displays of this topic in your setting to get families talking about possible behaviour changes which can be made at home. Ask these key questions:

Do I need it? - Reuse

Do I want it? - Reduce

Is there an alternative? - Rethink

Early years curriculum links:

- Understanding the world
- Communication & language
- P, S, E Development
- Literacy

Guidance age three to five years

Additional guidance & resources -

[Library of Things - Projects - PECT](#)
[Repair Cafes](#)

