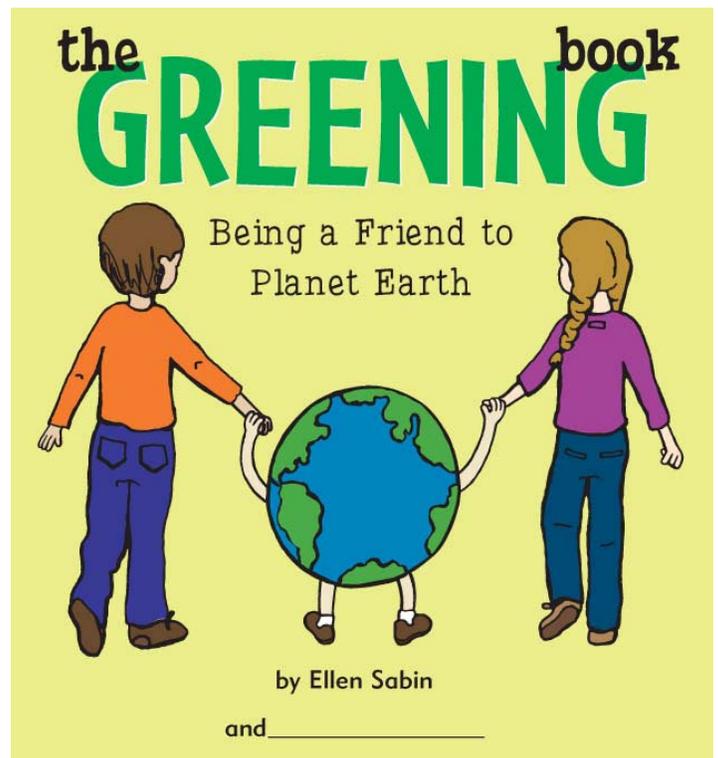




WHAT IS THE GREENING PARTY?

A Greening Party is a unique opportunity for your child and his or her friends to come together and have a great time while also learning valuable lessons about the environment and how they can help protect and nurture Planet Earth. Ideally, each child at the party will have their own copy of *The Greening Book* since the book is designed to be customized by the child and become a scrapbook of what they love about the earth and what they want to do care for the world around them.

This party guide contains just a few ideas for creating an exciting party that has purpose in its ability to combine fun with a powerful learning experience.



GREENING PARTY OVERVIEW:

The Greening Party, as described in this guide, has ten different potential activities. While the first two are an important part of laying the groundwork for the event, the remaining activities can be mixed and matched to customize the party in a way that best fits your space, timing and the group of children in attendance.

- Personalizing the Book
- Introduction/Setting the Stage
- "My Favorite Things" Discussion and Collage Activity
- "Earth Wishes" Activity
- "Chew and Chat" Activity
- "Recycling Rush" Activity
- "Swag Bag" Activity
- "Add it Up Scavenger Hunt" Activity
- "Make it Better Letter" Activity
- "Green Book Fair" Activity

You can also refer to the Teacher's Guide and other free resources available at www.wateringcanpress.com for additional activity possibilities.





Invitations/Guest Prep:

Page 6 of this PDF is an invitation that you can print out, or you can make something similar yourself. We suggest that you have your child fill out the invitations for the guests and then glue them to the front of a 9x12 envelope (available at any office supply store). If you are mailing the invites, you can slip the invitation page inside the envelope for mailing. The envelope will then become a tool for holding the things your guest will bring to the party as part of their preparation. As you can see on the invitation, your guest's prep for the Greening Party will be to collect pictures of their favorite things about our planet. These can be pictures they have taken themselves, clipped from magazines or printed out online.

Decoration Ideas:

The Greening Party doesn't require decorations, but if you want to add more festivity to your event, you can work off the globe theme used on the front of the book. You can create globes from construction paper or other materials and accent them with blue and green streamers and balloons. If you want to incorporate the "Earth Wishes" activity described in this guide (and in the book), you can decorate with large cut-out circles that can be used to record your guests' wishes for the world around them.

Food and Snack Suggestions:

If you want to offer refreshments, you can tie the food into the theme as well. Round "globe" cookies with green and blue icing make a nice accent or you could do a cake with a message in icing like "Greening Party" or "We Love Planet Earth." If you are going to incorporate the "Chew and Chat" activity outlined in this guide, make one item on your menu a simple recipe with natural ingredients. You will need to make copies of this recipe for your guests so you can talk about the ingredients that come from the earth while the group enjoys the snack.

Activities:

After your guests arrive, you want them to all be seated with their *Greening Book* so everyone can see and hear the adult(s) leading the party. They can be seated around a table or on the floor in a living room or family room. If the weather is nice, the guests can be seated in a circle in a back yard or on a patio. Each child will need room to spread out their book and participate in some arts and crafts projects. Remember, in addition to the activities outlined in this guide, there are also many other ideas in the book and the related Teacher's Guide (www.wateringcanpress.com).

Personalizing the Book:

When you initially give each child their book, explain that it is truly THEIR book and they are encouraged to complete the activities and write in the book as they wish. If you are providing the books for all the children, make sure you complete the "letter" on page 3 of the book by writing in the guest's name and you or your child's name at the bottom. As a group activity, have each child record their name as co-author on the first page of the book.



Introduction/Setting the Stage:

You want to tell the guests that this party is going to be a lot of fun and that they will all be learning more about the gifts we get from the environment and what we can do in return to protect and nurture the earth. Make sure they know there are exciting activities ahead! As an introduction to the Greening Party activities, read aloud pages 7 – 11 of *The Greening Book* and have the children follow along. Depending on the ages of the guests, you can even have them take turns reading. Let discussion flow and encourage them to ask questions.

“My Favorite Things” Discussion and Collage Activity:

The event invitation included in this guide asks guests to think about gifts they get from the earth and to bring pictures of their favorite places and things from the natural world. This activity gives guests the opportunity to share their favorite things about our planet and work together on an art project. You’ll need glue sticks and a large piece of poster board or an art canvas. Let the children take turns explaining the pictures they brought and how they represent a gift they get from the earth. After each child speaks, have them take that picture and glue it onto the board or canvas. Once all the pictures are incorporated into the collage, display the finished project somewhere prominent for the rest of the party. As a thoughtful follow-up to the party, you can scan the collage into your computer or take it to Kinko’s to get copies made for each of the guests and their families.

“Earth Wishes” Activity:

This activity is described in detail on page 55 of *The Greening Book*. Guests will take circles of paper (you can cut them out ahead of time or allow the children to do it as part of the activity) and draw on them so they look like the earth. On each circle, they will write down the things that they wish people would do to be kind to the earth and protect it. The finished products can be displayed for the remainder of the party and then sent home with your guests.

“Chew and Chat” Activity:

It’s so easy to take for granted things we enjoy daily that come from the environment. A nice way to tie “snack-time” into the Greening Party is to create a simple recipe with natural ingredients (oatmeal cookie, carrot cupcake, brownie) and then make copies of the recipe for your guests. As the group enjoys the snack, walk them through the ingredients and talk a little about how each one comes from nature. You can do research on the ingredients beforehand to get specific information on how each item is produced and harvested. Make sure to explain to your guests that protecting our environment is an important part of making sure we have all the foods we enjoy in the future. As a take home task, have your guests complete page 13 of *The Greening Book* so they can ask their parents to help them write down the ingredients of their favorite food.





“Recycling Rush” Activity:

Review pages 28 and 29 with your guests to help them understand the importance of minimizing waste and recycling. The “Recycle Rush” activity is like an Easter Egg hunt, but the children aren’t looking for eggs, they are looking for trash that you have hidden around the house or in the yard – plastic bottles, cans, small boxes, etc. You will, of course, want to clean or rinse out the “trash” items before hiding them. The twist is that, in each item, there will be some money (a quarter or two is plenty). Explain to the children that the money they find will be donated to a charity that helps protect the environment. To prevent competition, set a maximum number of items for each child, like 4 or 5. When they have found all their allotted items, collected the money from them and deposited the trash in the designated bin or bag, they can help the other guests find their items. You can emphasize the lessons from this activity by discussing how the items they found can be recycled and sharing information with them about the charity that will receive the money they collected.

“Swag Bag” Activity:

Using cloth or vinyl bags instead of paper or plastic to carry groceries or other items is an easy way to reduce the amount of trash we produce. Explain to the children that they will be creating their own reusable bag – both to take home everything they collect at the party and to use in the future when they are bringing stuff home from the store or taking stuff to school or a friend’s house. You can purchase inexpensive canvas tote bags at your local craft store or online. You should also supply a selection of craft items that the guests can use to decorate their bags – paint pens, fabric paint, buttons, cloth cut-outs, etc. Encourage the group to incorporate messages or themes about the earth into the decorations on their bags. When the crafting project is complete, set the bags aside to dry so the kids can use them to take home their *Greening Book* and other items they have made or received during the party.

“Add it Up Scavenger Hunt” Activity:

It is important for children to realize how much electricity we use every day so they can start thinking about ways to conserve energy in their own homes. For this activity, divide the guests into two groups and give each group a piece of paper. When you say “go,” both teams should walk around your house and write down everything they see that uses electricity. Set a time limit for this activity so the guests have to think quickly. At the end of the time limit, bring the groups together and review their lists. The team with the most correct answers wins! You can end this activity by reviewing pages 32-35 of the *Greening Book* and asking the children to share ideas for conserving energy in their own homes (turning lights off when they leave their room, shutting off the television when they aren’t using it, etc.).





“Make it Better Letter” Activity:

Children should know that their ideas and their voices are powerful and can be used to improve the world around them. You will need to do some research ahead of time to get a name and address for a local or state leader to whom your guests can send their letters. Encourage the children to select a cause that is important to them (like protecting animals, beautifying a park or reducing pollution) and have them write a short letter sharing their hopes and wishes for the environment. If there is an issue of local concern (a heavily littered area, a park in need of restoration, a movement to encourage recycling), this is a great opportunity to have children craft a letter to local leaders addressing the situation.

“Green Book Fair” Activity:

Children don't have as many opportunities as adults to do something *themselves* to help the environment. One way they can help is to give toys or books to a friend or local charity instead of throwing them away and creating more waste. The invitation included in this guide asks guests to bring one or two books that they no longer want to the party. As guests arrive, place these books on a table or some other specific place (you can even highlight this place with a banner that says “Green Book Fair”). Before guests leave, have them pick out a book they find interesting from the stack (you may want to have some extra used books on hands so all guests can find something they will enjoy). Page 7 of this PDF is a page of book labels that can be printed out on Avery 5168 labels (or on regular paper and applied with glue sticks). This activity can be made more engaging and personal by having the children complete these labels to help them understand the rewards of giving and “recycling” their possessions instead of throwing them away.

**More activity ideas are available at www.wateringcanpress.com.
We also offer discounts on purchases of 10 books or more through our site.**



_____ would like to invite you to a very special party where we'll have lots of fun while we celebrate all the things we love about the earth and learn how we can take care of the world around us!

WHEN:

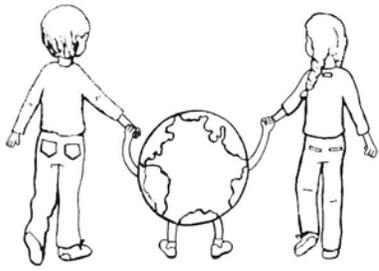
WHERE:

Make sure your parents call us at _____ to let us know you'll be attending our Greening Party!!

WHAT TO BRING!!

Write your name on this envelope and feel free to color the invitation! One of the fun things we are going to do at the party is talk about all the things we love about Planet Earth – like places we like to play outside, animals or other things in nature we enjoy, and great things we get from the earth. Talk to your family about your favorite things about the environment and then collect pictures of those things to bring with you to the party. These can be pictures you have taken, clipped from a magazine or printed out on the computer. Put all these pictures in your envelope and bring it with you to the party.

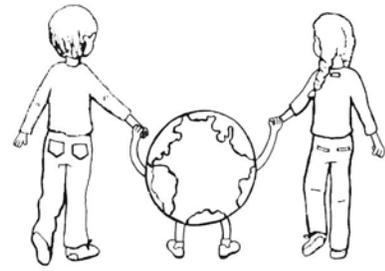
We will also be having a "Green Book Fair" at the party so we can share the books we no longer need instead of throwing them away. Bring one or two books to the party that you would like to give to a friend.



This book belonged to:

I am giving this book to...

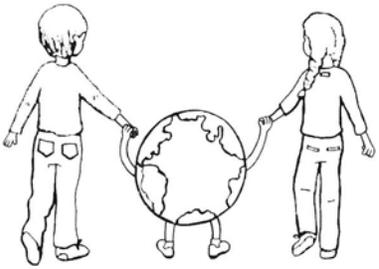
**Giving books or toys to friends
or a local charity instead of
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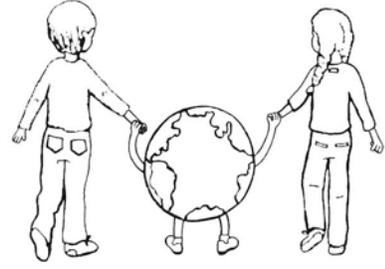
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