Colour me Blue

This is an easy and educational exercise that is loads of fun! Have students cut and colour their blue bin, filling it with recyclables such as newspaper, cardboard, plastic, aluminum and steel. Bring recyclables from home or cut and colour provided cutouts. Have students write a paragraph on what they've learned and how they will recycle more.

Early Years

- Grade 2 - 4

Thinking Concepts and Skills

- Being able to differentiate between recycled goods and garbage
- Awareness of blue bins
- Awareness of recyclables and recycling at home
- Cutting, colouring, pasting, writing

Students' Tasks to Demonstrate Learning

Activate:

1. Open the discussion by asking students what they know about recycling.
    a. What is recycling? Who recycles? Why do you recycle?
2. Ask students if they have blue bins at home and to think of what type of items are in the bin.
3. Start a list on the board of items students think belong in the recycling bin.
4. With the students, categorize the items by discussing what each item has in common and drawing parallels (paper, plastic, cardboard, aluminum and steel)

Acquire:

1. Ask the students what they want to know about recycling and create a list of questions they hope to answer at the end of the lesson.
2. Use the MMSM's Tale of Recycling to provide an intro to recycling, to learn about the recycling categories and where your recyclables go once the recycling truck picks them up.
    a. After, see if any of the questions the students had were answered. If questions still exist, try to work through them with the students based on the information learned from the Tale of Recycling.
3. Once students understand the concept and can determine recyclable items from non-recyclable items, have them bring in a few recyclables from home. To reduce contamination rates, we always want to make sure our recyclables are empty.

Apply:

1. Have students present their recyclable items and indicate which recyclable category their item(s) fall into.
    a. Set up physical categories with a blue bin for each category. Have students place recyclables in the correct category's bin.
2. Distribute recycle bin worksheets and have students colour and cut out bins and recyclable items.
3. Have students glue their cut-out recyclable items into the top of their blue bin as well as pieces or full recyclables from the items brought in from home.
4. Have students write a paragraph or two on their findings. What they learned and how they will apply it.
    a. What have you learned about recycling and what will you do to recycle more?
5. Hang students' blue bins on bulletin board to showcase work.

Additional Resources

- http://simplyrecycleschools.ca – MMSM's A tale of Recycling Interactive Story
- MMSM's recycling journal