

Dear Family,

In my class today we used recycled things to make our own mobiles.

Did You Know?

- Creating less waste, trash, and garbage is one of the best ways to help our environment. One way to do that is by reusing things rather than buying brand new products. There are many ways to reuse something. You can sell or donate things that you are done using. Appliances, tools, clothing, books, furniture, and toys are easy to sell at a yard sale or donate to a charity. Making and transporting a new product requires a lot of natural resources and energy. By reducing waste and reusing products, we can reduce pollution and the amount of trash that accumulates in landfills.
- A mobile is a form of moving sculpture invented by an artist named Alexander Calder. A mobile is typically made from materials or objects balanced on the ends of pieces of wire so that the mobile, when hung up, can move naturally in currents of air. Alexander Calder created mobiles that ranged in size from very small to some weighing hundreds of pounds and spanning more than 25 feet. His mobiles are displayed in many museums in the United States, including some in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

Ask Your Child:

- What is a mobile?
- What did you use to make your mobile?
- Describe what happened when you hung up your mobile.
- Explain what the word *reuse* means.
- Are there things that we can reuse at our house?

Activities To Do With Your Child:

- You can make a recycled mobile at home with your child. We used things from the recycling bin (like lids from yogurt containers) and old toys that we were going to throw away (like puzzles with missing pieces and games that were worn out or missing pieces). You could make a mobile with a theme or just use a variety of materials. For example, if you have a deck of cards that is missing some cards, you could use the cards that you do have to make a mobile.
- Select the items that you want to use. Use scissors or a hole punch to make a hole in each of the items that you want to hang on your mobile. Cut pieces of string (they do not all need to be the same length) and tie one through the hole you punched in each object. Take each object and tie the other end of the string to the hanger. Hang the mobile from the ceiling. When there is a breeze, the mobile will move.

Vocabulary Words To Use With Your Child: mobile, reduce, reuse, hang, sway, balance