

Happy Creek Sad Creek Instruction Kit

Games are a great way to engage students, teach new content and model good behaviours. Play the Happy Creek, Sad Creek game/activity with your students to teach them about waterway health and simple actions they can take to support healthy creeks.

Resources

- Creek: Large, rectangular creek tarp to represent creek.
- Rubbish: Collection of rubbish that can be recycled and can't be recycled.
- 2 waste sacks / bags: Recyclable and non-recyclable
- Script (below)
- Images of happy native creek animals (see notes below)
- [Brisbane's Recycling Guide for Households](#)



Instructions

	Actions	Resources
Prep	<p>Ensure you have the following items ready to go:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Images of creek animals (or you could use soft toys of native creek animals if you have them) • 1 general rubbish sack (white) • 1 recycling rubbish sack (yellow) • Selection of rubbish items (enough for 1 per child) (keep hidden in the sacks until later in the game) <p>Lay out base tarp and place the creek mat on top</p> <p>Have children sit along the sides of the “creek” mat.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Base tarp • Creek mat • Images of native creek animals • Rubbish sacks <p><u>Optional:</u> puppets / soft toys of some local native Australian animals</p>
Orientation	<p>Welcome children to the creek.</p> <p>Explain that you are going to tell them a story about a happy creek and a sad creek. Have children tell you what they think a happy creek and a sad creek might look like.</p>	
Activity	<p>Read story (or adlib your own version) and complete actions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Story • Rubbish • 2 waste sacks
Conclude	<p>Conclude by reinforcing what makes a happy creek and sad creek and actions children can take to keep creeks free of rubbish.</p>	

EYLF Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world

- 2.1 Children develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities and an understanding of the reciprocal rights and responsibilities necessary for active community participation.
- 2.4 Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment.



Story Script p1.

STORY	ACTION
<p>“One hot summer evening a wild storm began to form. Thunder rumbled, lightning lit up the sky and millions of heavy raindrops fell on the hills around Brisbane. As the raindrops rushed down the hills they joined together and became a fast, flowing creek. This creek, that started in the hills ran through the suburbs of Brisbane, past (<i>name of kindergarten</i>), all the way to the sea. It was called (<i>insert name of creek</i>).</p> <p>Note: This game is normally run beside your local creek however if doing this within the kindy grounds you may wish to select the name of a nearby creek or make up a name).</p> <p>It was a beautiful, healthy, happy, creek. The children from the kindergarten liked to explore it and they saw that the creek was full of many native plants and animals.</p> <p>The children saw beautiful plants which grew on the creeks’ bank and helped keep the water clean. They also saw colourful native fish swimming in the water as well as dragonflies, water dragons, turtles and frogs all enjoying the fresh, clean water. (<i>Add in all the animal cards here and talk about each one if you wish. We like to add the sounds of the animals and give them characters</i>).</p> <p>The creek was very healthy and happy.</p> <p>One day the children got busy at their Kindy and could not visit the creek for a long time.</p> <p>When they did return, they noticed things had changed. Unfortunately, they saw something in the creek that did not belong there.</p> <p>Open your eyes and see what’s in the creek. Oh no!! Rubbish While the children were away, the creek had filled with rubbish!</p> <p>In the creek they found ...(<i>name some of the items of rubbish you have just placed in the creek</i>).”</p>	<p>Ask: What is an Australian native animal or plant? <i>An animal or plant only found in Australia.</i></p> <p>Do: As you mention animals place an image of them in the creek.</p> <p>Do: Ask children to close their eyes while you place all the rubbish into creek.</p> <p>Do: <i>Make sure you have at least one piece of rubbish per child.</i></p>



Story Script p2.

STORY	ACTION
<p>“Did you know that most of the time rubbish like this is not put straight into the creek, instead it is washed in or blown in.</p> <p>For example (pick up a piece of rubbish and provide different scenarios for different pieces of rubbish)</p> <p><u>Possible scenarios:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blew out of car window• A child/adult did not put it in the bin• Storm blew up and all the rubbish lying on the ground washed into drains then into the creek• Dog did a poo in the park. The owner did not pick it up and it washed into the creek. (There is a fake poo in the kit) <p>The rubbish had polluted the creek and made it very sick and sad.</p> <p>The children noticed that the beautiful plants were dying and the fish and other animals didn't like this creek and it's murky, messy water anymore and were all gone. (<i>Name the animals as you remove them for more impact</i>).</p>	<p>Ask: Does rubbish belong in the creek? How did it get here?</p> <p>Do: Discuss how rubbish enters creeks. <i>Blows into creeks, dropped into creeks, washed into creeks.</i> Discuss simple actions children can take to stop rubbish entering creeks. The simplest of all being to put their rubbish in the bin.</p> <p>Do: As you mention the names of 'sick' native animals remove them from the creek.</p>



Story Script p3.

STORY	ACTION
<p>The children got together and thought about what they could do to help the sad creek.</p> <p>Luckily, they came up with a wonderful idea.</p> <p>What was it?</p> <p><i>They decided to clean up the creek!</i></p> <p>Thank you for helping clean up the creek. I think it is looking much better now. Shall we finish our story and see what happens to the creek now that it's clean?</p> <p>Once the children had cleaned up the creek the water became clear again and the native plants and animals moved back in (<i>place the native animal picture cards back in</i>). The creek was healthy and happy once again, all thanks to the children from (<i>name kindergarten</i>) who helped clean up the creek and who always put their rubbish in the bin to ensure the creek never got sick or sad again.</p>	<p>Discuss: Discuss how some things can be recycled and some things can't.</p> <p>Do: With the children, clean up the creek and place items in correct waste sacks. Call up 1 or 2 children at a time to do this to avoid a mad rush.</p> <p>Each child can select 1 piece of rubbish and decide which sack it should go in (recycling or general waste). Ask the group to help if the child is unsure. If using the fake dog poo, give the child who selects that as 'their item' the dog poo collection bag and explain how to use it if needed.</p> <p>See resource – recycling guide for more information.</p>

