Don’t Throw Me Away!

Written by Sally Francis Anderson
Photographs by Matt Houston
Acknowledgments

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A special thank you to the children of the Success for All employees who worked so hard and participated so willingly in this project:
Amanda Becker, Dan Borgnia, Eitan Borgnia, Noam Borgnia,
Aaron Cheung, Elizabeth Cheung, Chardá Lawson, Corey Lawson,
Kristina Owens, Chelsea Tindull, Justin Tindull, and Mateo Walker.

Don’t Throw Me Away! was developed under the direction of
Robert E. Slavin and Nancy A. Madden, codirectors of the Success for All Foundation family of programs.

The mission of the Success for All Foundation is to
develop and disseminate research-proven educational
programs to ensure that all students, from all backgrounds, achieve at the highest academic levels.
These programs were originally developed at
Johns Hopkins University.

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Think before you throw it away.

If the paper could talk, what would it say?
“Turn me over. Don’t throw me away!”
If the orange peel could talk, what would it say?
"I can be compost. Don’t throw me away!"
If the shirt could talk, what would it say?
“Pass me on. Don’t throw me away!”
If the milk bottle could talk, what would it say?
“Use me for play. Don’t throw me away!”
If the juice box could talk, what would it say?
“Use me for art. Don’t throw me away!”

Think before you throw it away. Could it be used another way?
• Before reading the book, ask your child if he remembers the title of the book. Have him point to the title as he reads “Don’t Throw Me Away!” Ask him if he remembers what the book is about.

• Ask your child to show you the photographs in the book. Discuss the different ways the children in the book are reusing materials. Comment on any of the ways that are familiar to you and your family.

• As your child reads the book, ask him to point to the words. Remind him that he can use the clues in the photographs to help him figure out any unknown words. Point out the quotation marks on pages 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 and remind him that quotation marks are used to show the exact words someone (or in this case, something) says.

• After reading the book, help your child come up with a family recycling plan. Maybe your family can begin saving newspapers, plastic bottles, and aluminum cans. If you have a garden, you and your child might want to start a compost pile. Your child can write a list of recycling jobs and assign the jobs to different members of the family. Have him post the list on the refrigerator where everyone can be reminded of his and her responsibilities.

• Visit the library and look for other books about recycling and the environment.
This is the student version of Don't Throw Me Away!, one of a series of SFA Big Books developed by the Success for All Foundation to help young children explore theme-related ideas. These engaging books build children’s enjoyment of books, their vocabulary, and their understanding of how printed words and pictures communicate meaning.

The Success for All Foundation programs for young learners provide children with experiences that foster the abilities and attitudes necessary for their success in the primary grades. These programs support the development of children’s language, literacy, math, science, interpersonal, and self-help skills.