Natural or Not?

Subjects: Environmental Science

Grade Level: Pre-Kindergarten to 1st Grade

Objectives:
Students will be able to…
1) Identify natural items vs. un-natural items in nature
2) Explain why recycling is good to do

Materials:
Any of the items below that you have available to you:

- ☐ Plastic Bag
- ☐ Paper Bag
- ☐ Aluminum Can
- ☐ Plastic Bottle or Cup
- ☐ Styrofoam Item
- ☐ Shoe

- ☐ Clothing Item
- ☐ Leather Item
- ☐ Painted Wood Item
- ☐ Fruit peel or vegetable skin
- ☐ Seeds
- ☐ Other man-made and natural items

Vocabulary:

Natural- Coming from nature or earth

Un-natural- Something that is man-made, not natural

Recycle- To change trash into new objects and materials

Reuse- To use an item again for another purpose

Reduce- To buy or use less

Activity

Set-Up:
1. Place the items above around an outdoor space you can access.
2. Do not completely hide the objects, only obscure them from plain view.

Directions:
1. Walk around outside with your child, letting the child lead you.
2. When your child walks up to something, be it an item you put there or is already there, ask, "Do you think this belongs here? Why or why not?"
3. Share the words **natural and un-natural.** Discuss some examples.
4. Ask your child if the items they find around, the ones that are already there and the ones that you placed around, are natural and un-natural.
5. Have your child help you clean up the items that are un-natural. Share with your child that they are helping to keep earth and nature clean and safe. Be sure to **reuse** or **recycle** the items that can be recycled. Share what recycling is with your child.

6. Extension: Have your child make a craft from un-natural items around the house that you are ridding of. Provide glue and tape to hold items together. Share that they are **reusing** items, so there is less trash in nature.
7. Extension: Share that they can help even more by **reducing** what you use. Talk about things that you need vs. things that you want when you shop.