

FROM TRASH TO TREASURE



For children living in poverty, toys are treasured items that are hard to come by. So, many children make do with the materials around them — even trash. Braided strips of plastic bags can make a jump rope, and old fabric tied together becomes a makeshift baby doll. Enough string tied around itself and you’ve got a ball for kicking around, and, with a little imagination, a plastic bottle becomes a toy truck.

With this exercise, you can help a group of children understand what it might be like for children living in the countries where ChildFund serves (see reverse side for a sample lesson plan).

GATHER SUPPLIES:

Plastic water bottles

Bottle caps

Sticks

Plastic bags

Construction paper

Fabric

Straw

Cardboard

Old flip-flops

Toothpicks

Buttons

String

Have your children work in groups, and give each table different supplies to make different toys. Ask them to use their creativity to make whatever they can with the supplies provided. While the children are working, ask them, “What would you play with if you had no toys”?

WE’D LOVE FOR ALL OF OUR FACEBOOK FRIENDS TO HEAR HOW YOUR EVENT GOES!

**So please let us know, and be sure to send pictures, to Sue Wootton
at swootton@childfund.org.**

LESSON PLAN:

1

Say to the children: Many times children make their own toys, especially when their family cannot afford to buy toys for them. Many children around the world get very creative and make all sorts of toys! Let's look at some examples:

Show the following online video clip: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8mUfV_dbTY

2

Have a range of "leftover" material available for the children: empty water bottles, soda top tabs, cardboard, scissors, paper, twist ties, Styrofoam cups, toothpicks, old newspaper or magazines, twist ties, twine, etc. Also have markers, tape and glue available.

3

Say to the children: Now we will try making some toys ourselves. Today, we will use these materials here to make musical instruments. Be creative! We will have about 15 minutes to work.

Ideas: Water bottles become maraccas/shakers. Cardboard can be made into any number of instruments — a drum, a pretend guitar, etc.

4

After about 10 minutes, gather the group's attention. Ask them to share what they made. It is okay if they are not finished—they can take their creations home. If you have more time, have a short "concert" where everyone plays their instrument together!



QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

What was fun about making your own musical toy?

Potential answers: We could choose what instrument to have, it was fun to use materials in a different way, like the way it sounds and looks.

What was hard about making your own toy?

Potential answers: It takes time, it doesn't always turn out the way you want it to.

What does this help you learn about other children in Bolivia, and around the world, who make their own toys?

Potential answers: They like to play and have fun, they spend a lot of time to make toys, their toys are important to them.