



# Earthways:

## Simple Environmental Activities for Young Children



### IN A NUTSHELL

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### SUBJECTS

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Fine Arts  
Health

The activities in this book are divided into four chapters, one representing each season of the year. Each chapter then has four sections. The first offers suggestions for making the classroom environmentally friendly, such as by using non-toxic or reusable supplies. The second provides seasonal recommendations for the development of an indoor garden. The third is a collection of ideas for seasonal craft projects. The author calls the fourth section "supplying the missing links"; these activities are designed to help students recognize and appreciate the connections between everyday objects and their natural origins.

Among the activities are rolling candles from sheets of beeswax and creating desserts from berries the students have picked. The text includes lists of mail-order supply companies, background reading for teachers, environmental education organizations, and an index.

**Grade Level**  
PreK-2

**Length**  
206 pages

**Date Published**  
1992

THE **BOTTOM**  
LINE

"An atypical resource with a focus on using things from nature and recycled materials to develop an awareness of our earth's ways."

	Key Characteristics	Strengths Noted	Other Considerations
What the REVIEWERS Said !	Fairness and Accuracy	Provides numerous references.	
	Depth	Sequencing of activities helps make connections clear.	Concepts were given scant attention.
	Emphasis on Skills Building	Strong on action skills and on encouraging creativity.	Does not develop critical thinking skills.
	Action Orientation	Involves children in recycling, composting, and the use of environmentally-friendly materials.	Does not really address the student's role in nature.
	Instructional Soundness	Time and age group specified for each activity. Allows for learning outside the classroom.	Does not state goals or objectives. Often calls for children to use potentially dangerous objects (needles, candles, etc.).
	Usability	Activities are long-lived and sequentially organized. Uniform structure is employed throughout.	Some of the materials are not easily obtained.

"The author wants us to watch what we consume, but the activities consume things from nature, rather than the store."

"Although it lacks science-based content, this book provides clear directions for fun nature crafts."