The
Little Kids'
Litter Party
Handbook
The Little Kids' Litter Party Handbook

A publication of
The Regional Recycling Resource Center
A program of the
Houston-Galveston Area Council
and
Clean Houston, Inc.

The Regional Recycling Resource Center
is partially funded through a grant to
the Houston-Galveston Area Council by the State Energy Conservation Office.

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Clean Houston, Inc.
is a
nonprofit volunteer organization certified as a
Keep America Beautiful System in 1979
and
dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in our community through
litter reduction, recycling, environmental education and beautification.

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Keep America Beautiful, Inc.
is a national, nonprofit,
public education organization
with local affiliates
dedicated to improving waste handling practices
in American communities.

Houston-Galveston Area Council

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Printed on Recycled Paper
With gratitude, this guide is dedicated to those teachers who have requested an instruction manual for producing their own "closer-to-home" Little Kids’ Litter Party and to the thousands of preschoolers, teachers, parents, family members, and volunteers who have made the Little Kids’ Litter Party a joyful Houston happening for the past 25 years.

Of all the environmental problems on our planet today, there is only one that even preschoolers can do something about each and every day: trash and garbage. We won’t be "saving the earth" by what we teach them nor can they "save" it by what they learn, but each one of us can make our own place on it cleaner and more beautiful.
Early childhood is the time to instill in our children an awareness of correct waste handling practices that will become habits as they grow older.
What is a Little Kids' Litter Party?

A Little Kids' Litter Party for kids ages 3 to 5 is an awesome annual outdoor party complete with a picnic, live educational entertainment on stage, a litter band, songs, stories, surprises, games and a litter pick-up at the end!

History

In 1995, nearly 4,000 children celebrated the Silver Anniversary of Houston's original environmental education event for preschoolers: the Little Kids' Litter Party. Originally called the "Little People Litter Party" when it was initiated in 1970 by Houston's Chamber of Commerce, the Party was created as a significant component of our city's total litter abatement effort.
The Party was coordinated by the Houston Parks and Recreation Department until 1980, when it became a Clean Houston Youth Education Committee production and a highlight of Keep America Beautiful Month each April. Since 1988, the Party has been presented in partnership with the Houston International Festival. In 1992, the Party name was changed to the Little Kids' Litter Party.

The Clean Houston Little Kids' Litter Party has been honored with national awards for program excellence and has been modeled nationwide. It has been sponsored by many major corporations including Star Enterprise, Browning-Ferris Industries, Fox 26-KRIV TV, Hi-C, Pepsi and Houston Coca-Cola.

A Little Kids' Litter Party is a litter-free event. Keep America Beautiful designates as a "litter-free event" any outdoor event that influences positive waste handling practices among those attending.
What Happens at a Little Kids' Litter Party?

It depends on whom you ask!

A little kid: "get off the bus - recycle cans - stay in a line - don't run - dance - sing - pick-up litter - chase clowns - be a Band - run up the hill - get my face painted - chase the Grunk - hold hands with Woody Woodpecker - eat - learn not to be a Litter Bug - some fun"

A big kid: "getting out of school - going downtown to the park - being on stage with thousands of people watching - teaching the little kids important stuff like don't litter and recycle - having fun - a really cool party"

A teacher: "being part of a huge gathering of preschoolers and teachers - kids experience a new place and live entertainment - fun and learning for the kids"

A volunteer: "a real learning experience for everyone - lots of people working together to do something important for the next generation - fun - simple fun"

A sponsor: "a rewarding experience - more than we visualized - a wholesome, worthwhile event for the kids - an event we can be proud of - a special way to express pride in our city - a lot of fun"

An education committee member: "entertaining environmental education - the first steps toward instilling awareness of individual responsibility for the care and preservation of one's environment"

The director: Well - it goes something like this:

6:30 a.m. on Party day:

Stop at 24-hour copy center to have programs printed. (Make mental note to be sure someone does this in advance next year.)

7:30 a.m.

Arrive at the park; car loaded to the brim. Wait on stage for sound crew; say prayer for no rain today; check cleaning crew sanitizing the porta-potties; check my list one more time:
Emergency phone numbers
Extra cash for anyone who forgets money for parking
Traffic control
Mounted patrol
Porta-potties: in place and cleaned
Stage: clean and ready for set
Tables delivered for face painting, hand-outs, props, drinks
Space for tables set aside
Space for games set aside
Drinks and ice ordered
Cups for drinks/towels for spills
Checks signed and in envelopes for anyone who needs one
Programs printed
Extra scripts for actors
Script for MC
Time sheets for sound crew, MC, and stage hands
Costumes for student actors
Sponsor banners for hanging on stage
Little Kids' Litter Party banner
Props for skit
Set for skit
Tapes for music before and after stage show
Honor Guard/flags for flag presentation
Preschoolers to lead Pledge of Allegiance
Ice and water for volunteers in animal costumes
"Grunk" costume
Animal character costumes
Professional actor to wear Woody Woodpecker costume
Entertainers confirmed, including school chorus and student actors
Metal recycling company notified to pick up aluminum cans after party
Trash bags/bins
Educational material for teachers
Favors for kids
Clear recycling bags
Sack lunches for volunteers
Photographer
Spokesperson for media interviews
Volunteers assigned to be:
  • Greeters & Can Guards
  • Drink Servers
  • Litter Busters
  • Water Watchers
  • Stage Hands & Runners
  • Animal Characters
  • Animal Pals
  • Flexible Folks

7:45 a.m.

Sound crew arrives; confirm placement of microphones; volunteer with set arrives; unloads castle parts; forgot to bring his big staple gun; grumbles that this will be the last time he's getting involved; proceeds to tape the pieces of cardboard castle while I hold them together; tell him how perfect it is! (Make mental note for next year: write down all supplies needed to erect set; send extra special thank-you to this volunteer.)
Unload animal costumes from car; take huge animal heads one by one to folding tables behind stage; Mr. Set Builder grumpily leaves his work; helps unload the dragon head AKA the "Grunk." Carry props to stage: bags of clean dry unbreakable trash collected over several months, small red plastic trash cans, a basketball-size Earth ball, litter bags, a broom, an apron, clear plastic pitcher and water glass, 8 sets of animal ears and noses for the "Critters," the box of programs, boxes of clear recycling bags, bottled water and ice in a chest to keep the volunteers who wear the animal costumes from melting, and the crumpled silky-sequined body of the "Grunk" with its carrying hoops and poles.

Group of volunteers report in; some take programs to the entrance side of the park to greet arriving guests, others take recycling bags for collecting "admission": one aluminum can from each guest. More volunteers gather at folding tables on opposite side of park to sort educational materials for each expected teacher.

Volunteers who will dispense drinks greet ice truck driver as he arrives with dozens of bags of ice; volunteer runs to stage to get check from me to pay for ice.

Clowns arrive; then, a yellow school bus; big kids pour out; fifth grade chorus members and actors rush to stage with torrent of excited questions; anxious to rehearse for first time on the actual stage; school music director sets up portable keyboard.

Volunteers putting on animal character costumes with help of Animal Pal volunteers; they laugh and visit - headless - behind stage. Hope little kids can't see them! (Temporary stage is entirely open and curtainless; make mental note to have a dressing tent next year.)

Begin rehearsing with actors; stop to greet earliest guests. They came early so they can get the best space, they say. Teachers spread sit-upons and a blanket on grass with a big box of sack lunches and another of Litter Band instruments.

Out-of-costume superheroes join rehearsal; mikes need adjusting; notice little kids by pond; signal Water Watcher volunteers to "take their places."

Volunteers hang sponsor banners; sound crew takes music tapes and program time sheet; face painters and game crew set up; park full of folks now; hope the animals are out of sight if their heads are off. Recycling robot is on stage, but can't talk today; Honor Guard reports in; professional drummers arrive; give Recycling Hokey-Pokey volunteer her props.
9:45 a.m.

Countdown to show time! Taped music begins: A Child's Celebration of Rock 'n Roll; animal characters without Animal Pals to guide them shuffle to center stage; begin to come alive and boogie; kids go wild! Everyone in sight is dancing! What a sight!

Behind stage, eight volunteers who will be the "Grunk" pull on baggy black pants over their clothes so that all their sixteen legs will look alike as they protrude from beneath the long, long "Grunk" body; signal to sound crew to stop music; announce that bus number 22 has lights on; repeat; signal to start music.

Student actors have put on animal noses and ears that transform them into "Critters." Chorus members and Honor Guard in place; pictures are being snapped; video tape is ready to roll.

10:00 a.m.

It's time! Signal sound crew: cut the music after this song. Animal characters and clowns wave to crowd and move off stage.

Stand still at microphone stage left until audience notices; then say:

"Good morning!" *(They are still winding down; repeat.)*
"Good morning!"
The echo comes back: "Good morning!"

"Welcome to the Clean Houston Little Kids' Litter Party!"

Surprise! Cowboy-booted radio personalities rush on stage; I recover and say, "Oh! We have a surprise!" and introduce them; say we will have some fun with them later! Back away from mike; they whisper that they were to have been here earlier. Remain calm, knowing they are not on list of entertainers; say, "I'd love to do Rusty's Rainstorm with you later, if you can stay." Go back to mike; make announcements about potties, schedule for the day, and important Lost Kid Instructions: "Raise your hand if you understand that you are to come to the stage to Mrs. Dee," pointing to myself. "She will call your teacher for you." Tiny hands raise high.

Everyone stands for flag ceremony; several preschoolers come on stage with teacher to lead the Pledge of Allegiance; Honor Guard comes in with flags; cover heart with hand. Stand straight. From corner of eye, see most kids do the same. Begin the Pledge; audience takes over the words. Member of Honor Guard begins to sing National Anthem a cappella; lump rises in throat as I look at the flag, the clear sky behind it and there, on horseback near the pond is the Mounted Patrol joining in the silence surrounding the beautiful voice; tears come in spite of biting my lip.
After applause and departure of Honor Guard and students, the drummers perform; the litter prevention skit is climaxed with the appearance of the "Grunk" and the kids receive an anti-litter message from Captain WOW. Little kids become a 3,000 member "Litter Band" and accompany the chorus with their recycled instruments; they dance the "Recycle Hokey-Pokey" with a purple "cousin" of Barney's; "Rusty's Rainstorm" happens complete with enthusiastic thunder and lightning provided by the crowd; the Houston International Festival Children's Day Parade arrives from ceremonies at City Hall and it's time for the finale!

(Meanwhile, volunteers have dumped all the collected aluminum cans at the back of the park in preparation for the litter pick-up.)

11:25 a.m.

"Thank you" to everybody; everyone who has had a part in the program gathers on stage; hold hands and "Who Keeps America Beautiful" music begins. ("Who Keeps America Beautiful? It's you - and you - and me!") Am moved to tears once again by sight of Houston skyline with thousands of people gathered in the park beneath it especially to hear our message!

Music ends; go to microphone; look shocked and speak slowly:

"Something has happened while we were singing! The cans that you brought for recycling have been dumped all over the park! I think the "Grunk" has made some litter to eat! Do you think we could very quietly tiptoe to pick up the cans so the "Grunk" will go away?"

11:30 a.m.

Kids and teachers slowly and quietly pick up "litter." Volunteers hold recycling bags so kids can put cans inside for recycling later. "Grunk" wends way through crowd looking for litter.

"Give yourselves a big hand for picking up all that litter!" (Kids applaud.)

"Good-bye, 'Grunk!'" (Kids chase the "Grunk" until teachers have had enough; the "Grunk" returns slowly to its place behind the stage.)

Background music starts; animal characters with Animal Pals stroll through crowd as lunch begins. Teachers get drinks for group and pick up educational packets and favors. TV cameraman and reporter come to stage; do interview. Kids get faces painted; play games.
12:00 noon

Remain on stage. Announce lost child. Keep child with me on stage; teacher comes to claim him. Listen to teacher who is upset that big kids cut in line when her little ones were waiting for face painting. (Make mental note to remind big kids more than once before party next year that they are role models for little kids.) Gratefully accept an icy drink from a volunteer. Announce that bus number 45 is ready to leave; tell two little boys that there is no climbing on the stage supports; ask if they are lost; sorry, nobody is allowed on stage now but Mrs. Dee and anybody who is lost; they chase each other in front of the stage.

12:15 p.m.

Announce that sound system will go off in 15 minutes. Stay on stage until park begins to clear about 12:30.

12:30 p.m.

Sound crew packs up.

1:00 p.m.

Take set down. Pack up car. Make final check of park. Pick up any leftover litter. Hug volunteers who have remained to help. Depart; take dragon back to owner and costumes back to office to air out before packing and shipping back to owners tomorrow; can't face unloading rest of car. Go home.

3:00 p.m.

Collapse!

Now you know some of what happens at a Little Kids' Litter Party!
HOW
To Make
A
Little Kids' Litter Party
Happen

Use the Keep America Beautiful approach!

1. Get the facts.
   First, learn The Basics.
   Then,
   decide how to teach the kids!

2. Involve the people.
   Repeat three times:
   Involve the people! Involve the people! Involve the people!

3. Plan systematically.
   Ready? Start your Little Kids' Litter Party Notebook!
   Label three sections:

   1. TO DO: Before the Party
   2. TO DO: During the Party
   3. TO DO: After the Party
The Basics:

Litter, Trash and All That Garbage

From The Basics, you will create your own litter prevention message to present at your Little Kids’ Litter Party!

Every living thing on earth makes waste. Waste is either natural or human-made.
Another name for human-made waste is Municipal Solid Waste or MSW.
MSW is seldom called by its name.
MSW is usually called trash, refuse, garbage, or junk.
(From here on, we shall call it trash.)

Each American makes at least 4.3 pounds of trash each day.

There are and always have been only 5 major things to do with trash.
Bury it or burn it. Compost it. Reduce or recycle it.

From dinosaur bones to dead trees, natural waste recycles itself in time, if the conditions are right.
(When people help with this process, it is composting.)

Most trash must be recycled by people because it will not recycle itself.
(Think about it: aluminum cans, glass bottles, plastic jugs, tires...)

In the olden days, people took the trash they couldn’t burn or bury at home to an open pit called a dump.
Rats, flies, mosquitoes, roaches, and all kinds of creepy critters lived in the dump.

Today, most trash goes to a sanitary landfill.

A sanitary landfill is a place to put trash so it will not harm the environment or create a mess.
Litter is trash in all the wrong places!

Litter is a very expensive worldwide environmental problem. In the United States, millions of dollars are spent each year by city, county and state highway departments to clean up litter.

In order to put litter in its place and keep it there, people must learn how to deal with it properly. In adults, habits may need to be changed. In children, proper habits can be instilled at an early age.

Litter is trash
• on the ground, the floor, the sidewalk
• in the yard, the ditch, the street
• under a bridge, beside the road
• out the window • floating • blowing

any place it's not supposed to be!

Litter is one or the other: accidental or deliberate.

Litter comes from eight sources.
1. household trash handling  2. construction/demolition sites
3. commercial refuse sources, including dumpsters  4. uncovered vehicles  5. loading docks
6. motorists  7. pedestrians  8. boating
People litter for three reasons:

1. They do not feel that a place belongs to them.

2. They think someone else will clean up after them.

3. They litter where someone else has littered.

Most people will not litter in a place that is clean and litter-free.
Four Things Kids Can Do to Help Prevent Litter

• Learn to put things where they belong.
  • Take care of their own litter.
• Be an example for parents and other grown-ups.
  • At home and at school, help to keep their inside space and outside space clean and neat.

Words for Kids to Know

trash
litter
waste
landfill
reduce
reuse
recycle
compost
municipal solid waste
Creating the TO DO lists!

To Do BEFORE the Party

Reminder: At a Little Kids' Litter Party, we want our guests to have fun, to be safe, and to learn about litter and how to prevent it.

1. Who makes it happen? People, of course!
   • Form a party committee or gather a group of interested people. Have a planning meeting. Brainstorm a lot!
   • Decide who will make the final decisions, give instructions, coordinate everything, keep records, act as spokesperson, and meet with potential sponsors.
   • Decide who is going to do what and when.
   • Decide how often to meet.
   • Recruit volunteers.

2. Money, Money! Who's got the money?
   • How will expenses be paid and by whom?
   • Decide where to get the money: who will be the sponsor(s)?

   Remember "the golden rule" of event sponsorship: "The One With the Gold - Rules!" Agreements must be reached about sponsor involvement in addition to providing funds. Discuss these as a start: sponsor logo on invitation and program, banner at party, company volunteers to help before and during the party, favors for kids, educational material for teachers, using company mascots.

   • Create a budget. Estimate how much money will be needed. Think BIG, then downsize as needed. Expenses include: invitations, postage, long distance telephone calls, faxing, printing, copying, entertainers, rental fees, sound systems, litter/trash bags, port-a-potties, stationery, favors, props, sets, parking fees, costumes, refreshments, and incidentals such as ice and paper towels.

   • With money in hand, proceed on as small or large a scale as your budget allows.
People litter for three reasons:

1. They do not feel that a place belongs to them.
2. They think someone else will clean up after them.
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*Most people will not litter in a place that is clean and litter-free.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>What</strong></th>
<th><strong>When</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact potential sponsors</td>
<td>ASAP after deciding to have a party and creating a budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet with sponsors</td>
<td>ASAP after they agree to be sponsors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decide date and time</td>
<td>ASAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secure the party place</td>
<td>ASAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create contact sheets/ fill a notebook with them</td>
<td>After sponsor, date, time and place are definite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fill out contact sheets</td>
<td>As each company/person is contacted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer job descriptions</td>
<td>ASAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recruit volunteers</td>
<td>ASAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decide entertainment/ refreshments</td>
<td>ASAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write skit(s)/songs</td>
<td>In enough time for actors and others to learn/teach them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact vendors, entertainers, photographer, and other participants</td>
<td>ASAP or at least 4 months before party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create invitation</td>
<td>At least 3 months before the party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Print invitation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Create thank-you card &amp; other recognition items</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepare mailing list</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address invitations</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Anytime before you address the invitations! If you are getting a mailing list from someone else, do it ASAP.

In time to mail on schedule
Mail invitations
Bulk mail: 6 weeks before party
First class: 1 month before party

Receive RSVPs
As far in advance as you need them to finalize amount of anything you need to order.

Make lists of what to order, buy, rent
Order things & buy or rent stuff
Ongoing
As soon as you know how much you need or what you need

Keep receipts. Do expense reports.
As you go along!

Uniforms, T-shirts, caps, badges or other identification for volunteers & other workers
As soon as it is decided what you want to wear in order to be recognized as hosts/hostesses on party day
(The director should wear something that sets him/her apart even at a distance as THE one in charge.)

Progress meetings & reports
As often as needed to keep things going smoothly

Programs for party
When program is finalized

Contact media: press releases
1 month - 2 weeks in advance

Rehearsals
Whenever you can; sometimes on stage an hour or so before the party!
To Do AT the Party

1. Remember that it is a Little Kids' Litter Party!
2. Be calm.
3. Be flexible.
4. Be patient! Nothing poops a kids' party quicker than an impatient adult!
5. Smile a lot.
6. Have fun!
7. Whatever you have agreed to do or are assigned to do plus whatever needs to be done!
8. Make mental notes of how to do it better next year!

To Do AFTER the Party

1. After you have been revived from your collapsed state by compliments of how well everything went and before you forget: remember and write down the mental notes that you made during the party for next year.
3. Get pictures (in duplicate) that were taken at the party and collect any published articles and photos about the party. Start a scrapbook.
4. ASAP: Give thanks to all concerned! Enclose any personal pictures or articles with letters and notes.
5. Organize records, including a note about where to find the stored costumes and props. This is absolutely vital if the party is to continue under your leadership or if it is to be passed on to another.
6. Pay bills.
7. Reconcile expense accounts.
8. Have a wrap-up meeting with everyone involved.
9. Forget the party for two months! Do not utter the words "Little Kids' Litter Party!"
10. At the end of two months, begin planning next year's party!
Recipe

EXCELLENT PARTY MIX
Serves as many as you like!

Mix together
your choice
of the following ingredients:

- Skits, Songs, Stories
- Puppets, Pantomime,
  Music,
  Dancing,
- Hands-On Activities,
  "Litter Bugs,"
  A Litter Band,
- Superheroes and "Litter Monsters,"
- Larger-than-Life Mascots,
- Animal Characters,
  Clowns,
  Recycle Art,
  Litter Bags,
  and
  A Litter Clean-Up!

Combine with a sound litter prevention message.
Garnish with lots of good humor and patience!
Serve outdoors on a sunny day!
The litter prevention skills and proper waste handling techniques learned at a Little Kids' Litter Party may become lifelong habits!

Create your own
skits, stories, songs, superheroes
and
villainous litter bugs
to present your very own
litter prevention message.

For example,
using the eight sources of litter,
create characters that illustrate how litter happens.
How did "Tex, the Trucker" lose his load
and become an accidental Litter Bug?
Add a superhero as a role model.
"Captain Clean" was a longtime Clean Houston favorite.
Include a villain!
"Dirt Vadar" and "Trixie Trash" were popular in the '80s!

From Sesame Street to Star Wars,
from Barney to Bangalee,
there are unlimited characters that can be modified for your skits.

Songs with a litter prevention message
almost write themselves
to simple familiar tunes like
"The Farmer in the Dell" and "Brother John."

A word of caution:
Be careful about using statistics and stating "facts."
Information changes so rapidly
in the field of solid waste
that
what was true yesterday
may not be true tomorrow!

A final thought:
Use kid-empowering messages such as
"Help keep the Earth clean and beautiful"
rather than
"Save the Earth."
Comments, questions or more information?
Please contact:

Clean Houston
2700 Post Oak Boulevard
Suite 1728
Houston, Texas 77056

713-621-7020

Fax
713-621-3823
Little Kids' Litter Party Contact Sheet

Party Date: _______________  Party Time: __________

Rain Date: __________

Party Place: __________________________

Party Sponsors: _________________________

Contact Person _________________________  phone ________

fax ________

Organization/Business ______________________________

Address: ____________________________  Zip: ________

Request: ________________________________

Instructions Given: ______________________

Comments: _____________________________

Date of Initial Contact: _______________  By: ________

Date of Confirmation Letter: _____________  By: ________

Follow-up Date: ________________  By: ________

Thank-You Sent: _______________  By: ________
Volunteer Job Descriptions

This is only a sample; you will have your own jobs!

However, for this there are no options; it is written in stone:

All volunteers absolutely must bring their own:
happy face, positive attitude, patience, flexibility, and
a desire to have fun!
All volunteers must like kids.

Other duties might include:

Stage Hands & Runners: Help entertainers keep on schedule and in
position; take messages from stage to back of park and vice-versa; signal
from back of park during performance to let MC know that he/she is being
heard; assist in setting up any last minute stage stuff; help with cleaning
up stage after performance.

Animal Characters: Wear a full animal suit; dance on stage for a short
time; walk around through crowd; do not speak; stay with an Animal Pal at
all times unless on stage. (Must be able to tolerate extreme heat for short
periods and must not be claustrophobic. Some costumes require a person of
a specific size to wear them.)

Animal Pals: Walk around with and guide costumed animal characters
through crowd; help characters get on and off stage; keep them supplied
with water and ice; help get "heads" on and off; help take off costumes, if
necessary.

Greeters & Can Guards: Be at entrance of park to greet and assist groups
of children and teachers in depositing aluminum cans into proper
containers; answer questions about potties, water, when drinks will be
served, where to sit, etc.; keep an eye on aluminum cans so they aren't
dumped or taken; keep an eye on folks in charge so you can direct people to
them when needed; help Flexible Folks dump cans as "litter" for the
"Grunk."

Drink Servers: Fill cups; distribute to teachers as they come for them; be
firm about not serving until it's time for lunch; watch for folks who come
for "seconds" before everyone has had "firsts."
**Litter Busters:** Encourage guests to deposit trash in proper containers; watch for the "teaching moment" to remind that the Little Kids' Litter Party is a litter-free event; there are no litter bugs at the Little Kids' Litter Party except on stage; be friendly and gentle with the reminder.

**Water Watchers:** (*for parks with water in ponds, etc.*) Be on duty by the pond; watch for stragglers who wander near the water; shoo them gently away and back to their group.

**Huggers:** All volunteers must give themselves a **big hug** after the party for being so wonderful!

*With the job description, include other specifics such as arrival and departure time for party, to whom they report, parking or bus information, lunch specifics, what to bring and what to wear.*
Invitation

The invitation **must** include:

- date
- time
- place
- name of party giver
- admission requirements
- special instructions: what to bring
- "very important notes"
- what to do in case of accident
- disclaimer
- other important information: rain date, parking instructions, map
- phone number for inquiries
- how to reply

The invitation **might** include:

- sponsor(s) name/logo
- schedule of events
- reply form
Program

Substitute your program for this one.
Everything is optional except the Presentation of the Colors,
the Pledge of Allegiance and the Litter Skit!

Welcome!

* Presentation of the Colors *
Houston Police Department Honor Guard

* Pledge of Allegiance *
In English and Spanish
Students from The Learning Place

* D.R.U.M. *
Traditional African Drummers

* Announcement: Recycle Art Contest Winners *

* The Litter Skit *
Bob Dimmitt    Dee Hruska
Trash Monster: Bill & Tek's Excellent Theatre
Overlord of Waste: Star Enterprise
Oak Fores: Elementary Vanguard Students
Tammy Lynn: Fox 26 - KRIV-TV
Captain WOW: Star Enterprise

* Litter Band: The Little Kids *

* Litter Songs: Oak Forest Elementary Vanguard Chorus *
Bettye Pollard       Ann Edwards       Rosalind Haynes
Director           Magnet Coordinator  Principal

* "Don't Waste Water" *
City of Houston Public Works & Engineering - Water Conservation/Water Production
Rusty Starr     Elliott    Lennie Lion    Ellie Phant    Allie Gator

* Announcements *

* FINALE *

Woody Woodpecker: Keep America Beautiful
Biffy the Bear: Browning-Ferris Industries
and
Everybody!
Litter-Prevention Songs

Please don't litter, Please!
(Tune: "Farmer in the Dell")
Please don't litter, please!
Please don't litter, please!
Help keep Houston clean and neat!
Please don't litter, please!
Recycling starts with me!
Recycling starts with me!
Cans and papers, bottles, too!
Recycling starts with me!

Litter, No! No!
(Tune: "Brother John")
Lit-ter, No! No!
Lit-ter, No! No!
Pick it up! Pick it up!
I can do my duty!
I can clean my city!
Pick it up! Pick it up!
(Repeat first verse.)

See how easy it is! Now it's your turn!

1. Review The Basics!
2. Pick a tune.
3. Choose some words.
4. Put them together.
5. Sing!
Litter Band Instruments

Include instructions with your invitation. Instruments are made ahead of time and brought to the party.

Trumpet

Cut the bottom from a well-washed gallon-size bleach bottle.
Loosely tape a foil pie plate to the bottom.
Hum into the top of the bottle.

Cymbals

Bang two pie plates together.

Drums

Cut both ends from a coffee can.
Cover the ends with plastic lids.
For a different sound, leave one end of the can intact.
Cover the other end with a plastic lid.

Kazoo

Cover one end of an empty wax paper or paper towel tube with waxed paper;
secure with tape, string or rubber bands.
Punch four or five holes in the tube.
Blow into the open end of the tube.
To make different sounds, cover holes with fingers; blow.

For a comb kazoo, fold wax paper over the teeth of a clean comb.
Hold the comb (teeth up) against your lips and hum.

Maracas

Put some dried beans or seeds into a small can.
Cover end of can with foil or paper; secure with tape, string or rubber band.
Shake the can to make sounds.
Little Kids' Litter Party Skit

Skit may be presented with a minimum of rehearsal time since most of it is read as a story by a narrator; actors perform the action described by the narrator. The narrator’s lines may be divided among two or more people to provide a variety of voices.

**Captain WOW (Wipe Out Waste) and the Overlord of Waste (OW) are Star Enterprise characters. You will want to choose other names for the superhero and villain you create.**

*(A Mountain of Litter is center stage. Narrator is at microphone, stage left.)*

**Narrator:** Once upon a time there was a Massive Mysterious Mountain of Messy Litter. The Master of the Mountain was the Mighty Monstrous Overlord of Waste!

*(OW comes out and struts.)*

Each day, the Overlord of Waste walked to and fro, checking each part of the Mountain to be sure that it was growing.

*(OW walks about as if measuring and weighing the trash.)*

He counted the cans and the bottles, the paper and the plastic and the veggies someone didn’t eat for lunch!

He weighed and he measured the candy wrappers and the juice boxes, the milk jugs and the cereal boxes!

Plus the magazines, more cans, more bottles, more bags and more boxes!

Then the worn-out clothes and the too-small shoes and the moldy old pepperoni pizza,

The toys and the books, the grass that Dad cut and the weeds that Mom pulled up!
Plus the diapers,
the paper dishes,
and even
dead fishes!

Yes! Yes! Yes! He shouted with glee!
Trash is sooo terrific! Waste is sooo wonderful! Litter is sooo lover-ly!

(Ow dances and prances around; tosses trash into the air and about the
stage.)

But one day, the Overlord of Waste was very surprised! He was totally
shocked! The Massive Mysterious Mountain of Messy Litter had stopped
growing! In fact, it was getting smaller!

How could this be?
Were there no more Litter Bugs in the land?

The Overlord of Waste was extremely worried! He could not make more
litter by himself! He must have Litter Bugs to do it for him! And to have
Litter Bugs, he needed people - people with trash! But where could he find
people with trash to transform into Litter Bugs?

(Ow looks puzzled; scratches his head; thinks.)

Finally, the Mighty Monstrous Overlord of Waste had a plan! He shouted:
"Yes! I have a plan!" He would cast a magic Litter Bug spell throughout
the land!

The Mighty Monstrous Overlord of Waste snarled and shouted:

Litter Bugs, Litter Bugs,
Far and Near!
Make more litter
That I hold dear!

Then the Mighty Monstrous Overlord of Waste crept behind the Massive
Mysterious Mountain of Messy Litter to wait. He would wait for some
people with trash to come by - some people that he could transform into
Litter Bugs!

(Ow goes behind Mountain to hide.)

(Enter student with a trash can and a trash bag.)

(Ow peeks out from behind the Mountain.)
This is Kevin. It's his turn to take out the trash at home. Oh, Oh! The Mighty Mysterious Overlord of Waste is looking at him!

(OW points finger at Kevin.)

A Litter Bug, A Litter Bug,
You shall be!
Make more litter
Just for me!

(Kevin becomes as a robot: drops the lid to the trash can, drops the can on its side so trash will spill out, drops the trash bag; trash falls out; he freezes.)

Kevin is leaving the lid off the trash can! And he didn't tie the trash bag! Kevin has been transformed into a Litter Bug!

Here come Mr. and Mrs. Jones taking the kids to Little League practice. I think they are having dinner in the car. They are making lots of trash!

(Enter Mr. and Mrs. Jones and two "kids" in a cardboard "car." They are eating chips and burgers; drinking from big paper cups.)

(OW peeks from behind Mountain; points finger at them.)

Litter Bugs, Litter Bugs,
You shall be!
Make more litter
Just for me!

(Each member of the Jones Family drops trash from the car; freezes.)

Oh, No! Now the entire Jones Family have become Litter Bugs! This is terrible!

Here comes Mr. Smith walking to the bus stop. While he waits for the bus, he finishes reading the morning paper and drinking juice. Now he has some trash.

(Enter Mr. Smith walking, reading newspaper, drinking from a juice box.)

(OW points at him.)

A Litter Bug, A Litter Bug,
You shall be!
Make more litter
Just for me!

(Mr. Smith drops the newspaper; freezes. OW claps hands joyfully.)
This has gone too far! Mr. Smith has become a Litter Bug, too! The Mighty Monstrous Overlord of Waste must be stopped before he turns everyone into Litter Bugs! This is a job for Captain WOW!

Boys and girls, will you help me call Captain WOW? Ready? 1,2, 3!

Captain WOW! Captain WOW! Please come and help us now!

(Captain WOW enters; OW cringes.)

Captain WOW: Hello! Is there a job for Captain WOW?

Narrator: Thank you for coming, Captain WOW! The Overlord of Waste has transformed these people into Litter Bugs!

Captain WOW: So! The Mighty Monstrous Overlord of Waste has been doing his dirty work again!

(WOW waves his hand over the Litter Bugs.)

Captain WOW: Litter Bugs, Litter Bugs, you are no more! The spell is broken! Be as you were before!

(The Litter Bugs begin to move and pick up the litter; put it into trash bags.)

(OW stamps his feet and starts to leave the stage.)

Hold it, Overlord of Waste! Come here! You are going to learn your lesson once and for all!

(OW reluctantly turns and comes toward WOW.)

You are going to sort all the litter on that Mountain into three piles: One, for Reducing; one, for Reusing and one, for Recycling! What can't be reused or recycled will be taken to the Land Fill!

(OW begins to pick up pieces of litter; look at it; make piles.)

Boys and girls, this is a lesson for all of us. First, we take care of our trash so it doesn't become litter. Then, we look at it to see if we can reduce it, reuse it, or recycle it. Taking care of our trash is important work that kids and grownups can do everyday to keep our Earth clean and beautiful.

We shall conclude the sample skit here, but a full length one would include thanks and curtain calls for each of the performers. Remember to apply the KISS rule for kids: Keep It Short & Simple.
Thank You Note

The illustration was drawn by Dustin Brown, age 4.
Printed on bright yellow card stock, these were mailed in yellow envelopes.

April 30, 1991

For what you did...

And the way you did it...
The 21st Annual Little People’s Litter Party was just what we hoped it would be... Fun!
Thank you very much ❤️
Clean Houston
Youth Education Committee
Very Important Notes

Include with your invitation!
Substitute your names for those we have used here.

Name Tags

Be sure each child wears a tag with school name and phone number on it.
As a precaution, we suggest not putting the child's name on the tag.

Lost Children

Instruct your children to go to the stage if they lose you.
Clean Houston's "Mrs. Dee" will call your school name from the stage
and keep the child in view on the stage until you come.

Potty Break

Port-a-potties are set up in the park.
There are no convenient washing facilities.
Plan to bring your own cleanup supplies with your lunches:
wet cloths for hands and faces,
wet paper towels for wiping potty seats, litter bags, etc.

Drinking Water

It is best to bring your own.

Accidents

Bring your own first aid kit!
Tuck in some quarters just in case you need to make a telephone call.
Bring some insect repellant, too.

Neither Clean Houston, The Houston International Festival,
Star Enterprise, nor any of the Little Kids' Litter Party sponsors
or participants are responsible for injury or accident.