Upcycled Art

Objectives:

1. Participants will create a unique piece of art from materials that would typically be thrown away.
2. Participants will appreciate how found and recycled objects can be made into art or repurposed instead of being thrown away.

Theme: We create too much waste, and upcycling is a fun way to reduce the amount of garbage we generate.

Materials:

- Upcyclable art materials
  - Plastic water bottles
  - Miscellaneous cardboard and paperboard
  - Fabric/leather scraps
  - Colorful paper
  - Clean food containers/wrappers
  - Craft scraps
  - Toilet paper/paper towel rolls
  - Old clothing
  - Milk cartons and jugs
  - Paper bags
○ Old puzzles or board games with missing pieces
○ Much, much more! Get creative!

● Craft Supplies
  ○ Scissors
  ○ Glue
  ○ Scotch tape
  ○ Duct tape
  ○ Stickers
  ○ Googly eyes
  ○ Pencils
  ○ Markers/Pens

● Art examples

![Art examples image]
Outline:

- Designed to let the creative juices flow, this activity is free-flowing and subjective to each participant.
- Inspire creativity by showing examples of upcycled art
- Explain the importance of repurposing objects so they don’t go to the landfills
- Encourage brainstorming
  - Participants can brainstorm by collecting objects they think are interesting and combining them to see what happens. As they begin playing with objects and materials, you can contribute new ideas and move in new and different directions.
- Assist young children with construction and direction
- Not everyone will work the same way!
Things to Talk About:

For this activity, we are making art out of materials that might normally be thrown away. We create too much waste, and upcycling is a fun way to reduce the amount of garbage we generate. Recycling is turning what we normally throw away into something we can use again, either in its current form or as something else.

Upcycling is taking something we normally recycle and transforming it into something more valuable. If plastic ends up discarded in the environment, it can cause problems for wildlife and ecosystem health. Throwing trash away adds to the landfills that are already piled high with garbage. Finding ways to repurpose and reuse plastics can keep them out of landfills and the environment. Start by finding some materials that interest you, and see what you can make!