

UpCycle Creative Reuse
Center Outreach
in ACPS Preschool and
Kindergarten Classrooms
Spring 2017



During the 2016-17 school year, UpCycle expanded its outreach to serve over 750 students in Alexandria schools. By participating in UpCycle's creative reuse programs, students develop foundational motor and communication skills, and they learn to create art with reuse materials and how to manage waste at school and at home. Our programs support Virginia's Foundation Blocks for Early Learning and Virginia Science and Visual Arts Standards of Learning in an instructional environment that is innovative and fun!

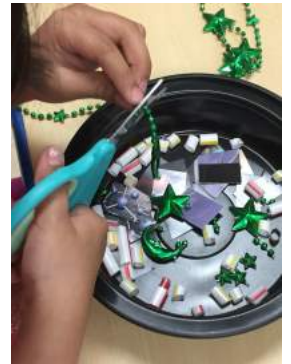
Preschool: UpCycle Center Days

Children participate in UpCycle Centers Day, where reuse materials are integrated into center activities. UpCycle teachers prepare and facilitate the programs and each classroom receives a reuse-themed book. UpCycle's preschool programs help children develop fine and gross motor, communication and problem solving skills while they experiment, create, and play with a variety of reuse materials.



Cutting Station

Children learn to hold and operate scissors to cut a variety of reuse materials: straws, race bibs, calendar pages, mesh fruit bags, x-rays, and Mardi Gras beads. The cuttings are saved for a future collage project.



Building Up

Children "dip and stick" cork and cardboard pieces in glue and attach them to a foam board. They test methods to build up and discover ways to stabilize their construction.



Color Mixing

Children discover what happens when two colors mix together: a third color appears! Children joyfully paint a foam board that becomes the base of a future collage project.



Explorations

In the special education classrooms, children explore sensory bins filled with eyeglass lenses and colored film.

In the Virginia Preschool Initiative classrooms, children make faces from collections of materials.



Kindergarten Science & Art Linked Lessons

Exploring and Creating Mixed Media Portraits with Reuse Materials



UpCycle's kindergarten program starts with a **science lesson** in the homeroom classroom where students observe and explore reuse items, describe the items' physical properties, and understand that materials can be reused, recycled, and conserved. Teachers are also given a **gift book** to read before the art lesson.

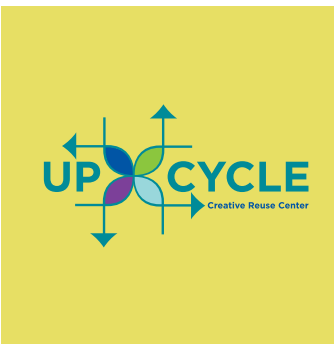


Next, UpCycle teaching artists set up residency in the art room, where students participate in a reuse-themed **mixed media art lesson** to create a portrait. Children select items from a buffet of materials and make plans for their figures. Once their plans are complete, the students are given glue to attach the objects to their bases.



Through UpCycle's programs, students and teachers see that waste materials can be a resource for scientific investigations and artistic expression. Students are encouraged to consider what waste items they have at home that can be used for creating and bring these items to school to start a reuse collection for their classrooms.





UpCycle imagines a community where everyone has the opportunity to experience the fun and benefits of art exploration and works collectively to reduce waste and repurpose unwanted materials. Our outreach programs empower children to:

- make choices about the methods and materials used to express their ideas
- solve problems when materials do not work as they imagine
- enhance their fine motor skills
- develop their oral communication skills as they describe materials and their artwork

What do teachers think about UpCycle’s programs?

- 100% of surveyed teachers reported that UpCycle’s programs supported the state curriculum extremely or very well AND that their students enjoyed the programs.
- 91% of these teachers would like to include carts of reuse materials in their classrooms, or they already do.
- Two-thirds of responding teachers are interested in participating in Professional Learning Communities that focus on incorporating of reuse materials into more areas of the curriculum.

UpCycle’s 2016-17 Outreach in ACPS schools was funded by and made possible through partnerships with:

