**Virtue: RESPECT for the ENVIRONMENT**

**Lesson Plan for Children 0 - 3**

**Open Play (20 minutes) and Parent Discussion:**

Invite children to play with toys- gently guiding and reminding them of the virtues of kindness, love and sharing. While keeping an eye on their children, parents talk about how to support the development of helpfulness in their families.

* How can we encourage the development of the virtue of helpfulness in our children?
* How can we as parents help foster in our children the desire to be of service to all humanity?

After about twenty minutes, a song with a verse about helpfulness is played, indicating that it is almost time to start the formal part of our playgroup.

**Song 01: The Verse played is “You live to do good and to bring happiness to others.”** (From the Virtues In Us, Quotations CD)

Once the song is over, children and parents clean up toys while singing a clean-up song:

There are several cute and easy songs to choose from: Select one and have that be your 'clean up theme song' for the class.

**Song 02:**

*(spoken)* Time to clean up, everyone. Let's pick up our things!

*(Chorus)*

Clean up, everybody clean up (x3)

Time to clean up!

Pick up, everybody pick up (x3)

Time to pick up!

Pick up the toys, put them away

Pick up the blocks, put them away

Pick up the books, put them away

Put your things away

**Song 03: Welcome** (Favorite Children’s Songs from the Family Learning House CD)

Good morning, good morning! It’s lovely to see you!

Please come in and join us, we’d love to be with you.

Today is going to be wonderful. Today is going to be joyful.

Good morning, good morning! It’s lovely to see you!

Please come in and join us, we’d love to be with you.

Today is going to be beautiful. Today is going to be peaceful.

Good morning, good morning! It’s lovely to see you!

Please come in and join us, we’d love to be with you.

Today is going to be…How is your day going to be? Get ready to sing!

Today is going to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_(respectful!).

Today I’m going to be happy. Today I’m going to be helpful.

Good morning, good morning! It’s lovely to see you!

Good morning, good morning! It’s lovely to see you!

**Opening Prayer: Explain: "**We always start with a prayer, because God is the source of all spiritual qualities, and we want to call on Him to aid us in our spiritual development."

**Song / Prayer 04:** **“**Rose Garden” (Angels in the World, Tim, Dalian and Jong May Urbonya)

O Thou the Compassionate God.

Bestow upon me a heart which, like unto a glass,

may be illumined with the light of Thy love,

and confer upon me thoughts which may change this world

into a rose garden through the outpourings of heavenly grace. ~ 'Abdu’l-Bahá

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| **WORDS** | ACTIONS |
| **O Thou the Compassionate God** | place both hands in front of you, palms open upward, and pulse three times with middle fingers bent |
| **Bestow upon me a heart** | place both hands over heart |
| **which, like unto a glass** | place right hand in front of face and swivel hand twice (like a queen wave) |
| **may be illumined with the light of Thy love** | make a heart in the air with index fingers |
| **and confer upon me thoughts** | point to forehead and make two small circles |
| **which may change this world into a rose garden** | (rose) make the sign for 'r' (cross first two fingers) and touch side of nose |
| **through the outpourings of heavenly grace** | (grace) put right hand palm facing out above head, then pull into face and turn palm to face |

**Song 05: Hello Song** (Music Together, Bongos CD)

Hello everybody! So glad to see you! Hello everybody, so glad to see you too!

Hello to \_\_\_\_, so glad to see you! Hello to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, so glad to see you too!

Hello everybody! So glad to see you! Hello everybody, so glad to see you!

(sing each child’s name and parent’s name)

**Introduction to the Virtue of Respectfulness toward the Environment:**

The "environment" is everything in the world around us, including the air, water, the dirt where plants grow, animals and people. All life, including all people, need air to breathe, water to drink, food to eat, shelter and warmth. We get all these from the world on which we live.

This world, created by God, is an amazing, beautiful and wonderful place. When we treat the world with care, by cleaning up after ourselves and not wasting things, we are respecting God's creation. In addition, we are preserving the beauty and use of the world for ourselves and for all other people.

**Book:**

**Don’t Throw That Away** by Little Green Books;

**He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands** by Kadir Nelson

**Song 06: Environment** (The Family Learning House, Favorite Children’s Songs CD)

What can I do differently today to live a more environmental way?

When I go to bed at night, I can turn out all the lights.

I can do it differently today.

What can you do differently today to live a more environmental way?

When you’re buying groceries, don’t use plastic bags please!

You can do it differently today.

What can we do differently today to live a more environmental way?

We can drive a smaller car. We can walk if it’s not far.

We can do it differently today.

What can I do differently today to live a more environmental way?

I’ll save water for the flowers just by taking shorter showers.

I can do it differently today. Yay!

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| **WORDS** | ACTIONS |
| **What can I do differently today** | put your arms and hands out to the side as if asking a question |
| **to live a more environmental way** | move your hands in front of you like a wheel while moving them from left to right |
| **.....when I go to bed at night** | make a pillow with your hands and rest you head on it |
| **I can turn out all the lights** | pretend you are flipping a light switch off |
| **I can do it differently today** | point to yourself with the tips of both your thumbs |
| **..... when you're buying groceries** | act like you are picking fruit with your hands |
| **don't use plastic bags please** | move your right index finger form side to side as if saying "no" |
| **you can do it differently today** | point both index fingers out and move them up and down |
| **.... we can drive a smaller car** | pretend you are moving a steering wheel in front of you from side to side |
| **we can walk if it's not far** | pretend you are walking |
| **we can do it differently today** | interlock your fingers in front of you and bounce them up and down |
| **... I'll save water for the flowers** | move your arms up from your side to out above your head like you are forming a flower |
| **just by taking shorter showers** | put your index finger and thumb of your right hand parallel in front of you, like showing that something is small |
| **I can do it differently today** | point to yourself with the tips of both your thumbs |
| **Yay!** | move both arms up above your head and open the fingers of both hands |

**Song 07: Tiny Seed**

(Explain that just how we care for the outer environment, we have to care for our inner environment too- our soul- through prayer, service, etc.)

(Note: “xxx” means you clap your hands three times)

I am xxx O my God xxx but a tiny seed xxx which Thou xxx

hast sown xxx in the soil of Thy love xxx and caused xxx

to spring forth by the hand of Thy bounty

I am xxx O my God xxx but a tiny seed xxx

xxx = clap three times

First do it with the children clapping, then introduce egg shakers to be shaken when claps are indicated. Finally, once they have this - you can bring out the drums and have them beat on the drums at the time indicated by the claps. You can have them do it loudly and then quietly!

**Have ribbon wands for the children to dance with during the following song:**

As an alternative, you can also print out pictures of each of these things described in the song, and then show it to the children before singing the song. If you use the printed pictures, the child with that picture holds it up during song. Or the teacher can just pass out the mother earth and human race pictures, and the teacher can hold up the other animal and food pictures.

NOTE: Google the names of the things in this song and print out a picture of it, then laminate them. At the beginning- go through the images with the kids and make sure they know what they are, then distribute them to the kids to hold up when the word is sung; the remaining kids, or others, can hold up the earth and children holding hands pics for the chorus. The song goes VERY fast, so the children need to be alert. It helps if the teacher points to each child when it is their turn to hold up a picture.

**Song 08: Hooray for the World Song** (Red Grammer, Teaching Peace CD)

*CHORUS:*

Hooray for the world, I’m glad to be on it.

Hooray for the world, I’m glad to be on it.

Hooray for the world, it’s a special place,

We got mother nature and the human race.

The world’s got buffalo. The world’s got bees.

The world’s got jellyfish swimming in the seas.

We got beavers and bears, bats and bugs,

Miniature poodles and slimy old slugs. Oh…

*CHORUS*

The world’s got salami, the world’s got cheese,

We got maple syrup and mulberries.

We got Egg Foo-Yung, bagels and lox,

Corn on the cob, and raisins in a box, so…

*CHORUS*

We got moms and dads, uncles and aunts,

Brothers, sisters, grandmas and gramps.

We got neighbors next door, kids down the street.

Everywhere we go we got new friends to meet, oh…

*CHORUS*

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| **WORDS** | ACTIONS |
| **Hooray for the world** | both arms above head in a V with fingers open and spread out |
| **I'm glad to be on it** | thumbs pointing to yourself |
| **It's a special place** | ball hands into fists and roll hands in front of you |
| **We've got mother nature** | hold up photo earth |
| **and the human race** | hold up picture of children holding hands |
| **Moms and Dads** | parents in the room raise their hands |
| **brother, sisters** | children hold up their hands |
| **Grandmas and Gramps** | grandparents hold up their hands |
| **Everywhere we go we got new friends to meet** | put both hands out in front of you with palms up and move them up and down while looking from side to side |

**Collect ribbon wands and pass out stuffed animals for use in the following song (to hug, take care of, etc.)**

**Song 09: Show Responsibility (Family Learning House, School Age Virtues Songs CD)**

Horses, buffalos, even the bugs, they are beautiful and they help us

Tigers, panda bears, kangaroos, they are gifts for us too,

So we must show responsibility, show responsibility

If we shelter them, give them love and care, they will always be there.

Rivers, forests, even the grass, they are beautiful. Let’s make them last.

Carrots, cabbages, juicy bamboo, they are gifts for us too

So we must show responsibility, show responsibility

If we shelter them, give them love and care, they will always be there

If we shelter them, give them love and care, they will always be there.

**Collect animals and pass out instruments to be played during the following song:**

**Song 10: Hello World** (Red Grammer, Hello World CD)

***Chorus:***

**Hello World! My old friend  
It's another day, I'm glad to see you again  
The sun is up, I'm ready to play  
Hello World! So what do you say?**

There are bikes to ride, frogs to find  
Forts to build, trees to climb  
Dolls to dress, beads to string  
Teams to choose, and songs to sing

***Chorus***

There are games to play, ducks to feed  
Berries to pick, books to read  
Fish to catch, friends to meet  
Jokes to tell, cookies to eat

***(Chorus)* then** (Instrumental chorus) then **(Double Chorus)**

(ending) Hello World! So what do you say?

**Collect instruments and take out the parachute to be played with, moving it up and down during the following song:**

**Song 11: Respect (Red Grammar, Bebop your Best!)**

*Chorus*

If I respect you and you respect me,

And we respect each other, what a world this will be

You’ll be glad I’m me, I’ll be glad you’re you

Cause that’s just what folks who respect each other do

*Verse 1*

If you let me talk till I’m finished

And I listen when you speak your mind

We chose our words carefully, we’ll hear each other differently

It’s one more way respect can be defined

*Verse 2*

When I don’t dis what you do

And you let me be who I am

And we don’t label anyone or pick on others just for fun

We show respect’s a word we understand

*Chorus*

**Put away parachute and invite children to sit in the circle for the passage on respect for the environment.**

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| Man is organic with the world. His inner life moulds the environment and is itself also deeply affected by it. ~ Shoghi Effendi |

Organic = interconnected

**Closing Song:**

(sung to the tune of "Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear....)

There are several different tunes for the Teddy Bear rhyme you can find on YouTube. Here is one version

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sSLlm5bwzjs

Respectful child, respectful child turn around. (turn around)

Respectful child, respectful child, touch the ground. (touch the ground)

Respectful child, respectful child, show your shoe

(hold foot up and point to shoe)

Respectful child, respectful child, I love you! (hugs all around!)

Respectful child, respectful child, reach for the sky. (reach up!)

Children’s class is over. It’s time to say goodbye! (wave and say, “goodbye!”)