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**Making Compost**

Composting is a great ecological concept for kids – what kid wouldn’t love making their own dirt? – but producing compost from kitchen scraps and yard waste takes a long time and isn’t a very visible process. This experiment breaks composting down into a tiny scale, which makes it much quicker and allows kids to really get their hands dirty (no pun intended).

Materials:

Plastic sandwich bag with a zipper top

Straw

“Green” waste – fruit and veggie scraps, coffee grounds, egg shells, lawn cuttings

“Brown” waste – cardboard, newspaper, dry leaves, coffee filters

A little water

Put your greens and browns into the plastic bag. You want roughly one part green to two parts brown. The smaller the pieces, the faster your compost will break down. Drizzle a tablespoon or two of water over the top and seal up the bag, using the straw to leave open a small opening to let in air.

Check your compost every day or two, mushing it up a little and adding some water as needed. You should see the materials begin to break down and after a couple of weeks, you’ll have nutrient-rich compost ready to feed your favorite plant.

Be sure to post photos on our Facebook page – facebook.com/natureplaydate - to show us how your compost does.

[Our thanks to Sarah Noftle and the folks at CBC Radio Canada for inspiring this experiment.]