

ONLINE AT THE Y

Learn, create, do something new by learning with the Y from your home

Soda Bottle Composting for Children

Recommended for 2 y ages and above

Resources/Ingredients:

- Empty 2 litre transparent soda bottle
- Scissors
- Raw food scraps
(vegetable/fruit peel, tea bags, coffee grounds, raw leftovers)
- Soil
- Water spray bottle

Instructions:

1. Remove the label and rinse your soda bottle. Cut the top off the bottle
2. Throw a handful of soil into the bottom of the bottle. Follow this with a handful of food scraps. Repeat this process until the bottle is full, finishing with a layer of soil. Once your bottle is full, spray the bottle with water (it shouldn't be too wet, but should be damp).
3. Place your composter in a sunny spot. When the soil on top dries out, spray with water to maintain a constant level of moisture.
4. Watch and wait as your food scraps decompose and turn to soil. You will need some patience -- the whole process will take about eight weeks. Take photos of the bottle once a week so that you can compare changes that take place from week to week. A more advanced version of this experiment could include adding 'green' and 'brown' materials to your bottle, exploring the impact of nitrogen and carbon on the decomposition process.

