

Have you helped the environment today?

This is the last issue of the REAPS Reader before summer vacation, and we've saved the best for the last. Today, we're going to talk about one of the single most important things you can do to help the environment. Ready? Here it is:

Go outside and play.

That's it! Pretty simple, right? Now, you might be thinking, "how does going outside help save the environment?" Before I tell you, I want you to take a minute to think about your very favourite thing about nature. Close your eyes and picture it. It might be your favourite place to go in nature, or your favourite animal, or a flower, or the feeling of sunlight on your face or nice, green grass underneath your bare feet. Or it might be something else entirely! Do you have a picture in your mind? Perfect! You can open your eyes now. *(Maybe you can take turns sharing your favourite things with your teacher and classmates!)*



Now, I bet you learned about your favourite thing by going outside and seeing it. And because you went outside to see it, it became important to you... and now that it's important to you, you probably want to make sure that it doesn't get hurt. That's how going outside helps save the environment! If we never go outside and play in nature, then we might forget why we like nature so much... and if we forget why we like nature, we might not think it's important to protect it.

So while you're outside enjoying your summer, doing all sorts of fun summer things, remember that the environment is one of the things helping you have so much fun! Maybe you can even help teach your sisters and brothers and parent and friends different ways to help the environment, like recycling, or composting, or riding your bikes. The environment really appreciates everything that you do, even if it seems small.

Thank you for being such good friends to the environment. Have a very safe and happy summer!