

## *Earth Day is a Birthday!*

A Native American Proverb once said “We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.” Earth Day is a day designed to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's environment. It was born on April 22, 1970, in San Francisco, California. Every year, America and over 100 different countries join together in the celebration of Earth Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. It is the largest, most celebrated environmental event worldwide.

On April 22, 2010, 10 Play & Learn centers located throughout Montgomery County celebrated Earth Day with special events and activities. The children were taught the importance of only having one earth and keeping it clean through recycling, reducing and reusing as well as the significance of trees helping us breathe and ways to conserve. They learned that everyone can help save the earth, even kids!

Play & Learn Preschool located in Fort Washington planted flowers throughout the school grounds, made “Earth Buddies,” created “Trash to Treasure” art masterpieces for an art show, learned about recycling and made plant life pictures and their own personal trashcans.

In Hatboro, the Play & Learn children participated in many activities about recycling, reducing waste and reusing materials. They signed Earth Day contracts, brought in trash-free lunches and made several projects using recycled materials: magazine holders from cereal boxes, piggy banks from coffee cans and magnets from soup can lids and old puzzle pieces. The children also planted flowers and plants for the playgrounds and classrooms and cleaned up litter. One of the children was so excited about Earth Day; she announced “I’m green! I turn off the water when I brush my teeth everyday!”

Play & Learn provides early childhood education to children ages six weeks through six years. Our mission is to provide children with a safe and secure environment where they can learn about themselves and their world through play. For more information about Play & Learn and how you can become a part of this great organization, contact 215-643-4142 and visit [www.playandlearn.com](http://www.playandlearn.com).

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Photo Caption: The children at Play & Learn get a better understanding of recycling.

