“Respect, Recycle, Re-use” in Nursery 3

Tu B’Shevat will be celebrated in two weeks. When we discuss trees we often think of nature and of greenery. Thus, it was important to discuss conservation and environmental awareness with the children. The children made the connection, that not only do we have to care for other living things, including trees, but we also must take care not to destroy or waste the natural resources Hashem created for us. The children practiced differentiating between man-made items and those things created by Hashem. The air, the mountains, the oceans, the rivers and lakes, the beaches, and the forests were all created by Hashem and it is our responsibility and obligation to take care of them and not to ruin them.

We discussed what “litter” is. The children explored and experienced the concept of recycling. We had four bins for recycling different materials in the class: paper, plastic, cans (aluminum), and glass. The children practiced sorting the materials and placing them in the correct bin. The following questions were posed: “When do we throw something in the trash?” “When do we recycle?” “What happens if there is no trash can available at the time?” We even appointed different truck drivers to come pick up the recycling bins, clean the collected items, and set them up for re-use. Our motto became: “Respect, Recycle, and Re-use.” When we follow Hashem’s instructions we are respecting the earth and Hashem’s creations. We do not litter and we do not waste. The children became aware that if someone leaves the water running, it is a mitzvah to turn it off. We do not throw water away, rather we water the plants. In this way, we are caring for the plants and we are returning the water back to the earth. The children colored a representation of the world, as well as, the symbol for recycling. Each class put together its own collage of recyclable items. We discovered that if we are wasteful and we litter, nature’s treasures could disappear. But if we remember to treat Hashem’s creation with care, our dear planet Earth will continue to amaze us year after year!