



## ***Biscuit's Earth Day Celebration:*** **Activities and Curriculum Connections**

By Alyssa Satin Capucilli

It's Earth Day. Join Biscuit on an outdoor adventure filled with learning and fun, as this puppy helps our youngest readers celebrate and expand their understanding of the natural world.

### **Read: *Biscuit's Earth Day Celebration***

#### **Book Overview:**

**Biscuit learns that Earth Day is celebrated in spring.** How is spring different than the other seasons? What are the many things we see, hear, touch, taste, and smell that let us know it is spring?

**Biscuit is invited to an Earth Day celebration.** What kinds of things do we celebrate? Let's learn about Earth Day. Brainstorm and chart: What is our earth made of? Rivers, oceans, the sky, trees, mountains, animals, etc.

**Biscuit learns an important way to take care of our world on Earth Day.** Saving water is one important way we can help. That's called conservation. Why is water important? Who/what lives in the water? New Earth Day word: Conserve.

**Biscuit learns it is important to care for and help living creatures.** Biscuit helps the bird find twigs for its nest. What are other ways to help living creatures? Can you fill a birdbath with fresh clear water? Can you leave birdseed for the birds? What other creatures make nests?

**It's time for the celebration to begin. Biscuit can help dig and plant.** Biscuit learns that plants need water and sun to grow. Taking care of plants and trees is a great way to celebrate Earth Day. Biscuit also learns about worms. Why are worms important in the garden? Here's another Earth Day word to explore: Compost!

**Biscuit takes action. It's time for a clean-up walk.** You can take a clean-up walk, too. Pick up any litter or trash, but be sure to leave everything else just how you found it. Who or what lives near your clean-up walk? Are there woods? A pond? Trees? City streets? See the world up close. Make your own binoculars—paper towel rolls work well. Simply attach with a string and decorate. You'll be amazed at what you can see. Math fun! Let's count the different sounds you hear on your walk. Count the different types of trees you see. What else can you observe and count along the way?

**It's time to recycle, Biscuit.** Biscuit learns that it is fun to make a reusable, recyclable tote perfect for carrying groceries and other goodies. Can you make your own recyclable tote? How will you decorate it?

**Now it's time to celebrate!** Let the fun begin. Share stories and snacks for your own Earth Day celebration. Songs like "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" and "Michael, Row Your Boat Ashore" remind us how important our animals and oceans are. Make puppets and put on an Earth Day puppet show. What

characters will be in your show? Who will you teach all that you've learned about Earth Day? Make invitations and invite them to the celebration.

**Biscuit helps the teacher "go green"!** Biscuit wants to help everyone who joined in to get a green ribbon. When we see healthy green grass and green trees we know that "going green" means finding a way to help take care of our world.

**Biscuit learns it's important to be a good helper on Earth Day, and every day.**

**Even more activities!** (Can be subcategorized into Language Arts, Creative Writing, Math, Science, Social Studies, etc.)

**Have each child create his or her own picture, painting, story, or poem about Earth Day.**

Maybe you have a budding author or illustrator that can collaborate. Create a classroom book of student reflections on Earth Day. Simple story starters such as, "On Earth Day, it is important to . . ." or, "On Earth Day, I will . . ." are helpful.

**Onomatopoeia:** *Woof, woof! Tweet, tweet!* It's never too soon to learn about this beautiful word. After all, the sounds of our world surround us every day. What other Earth Day sounds can your young writers think of?

**Let's cook!** Make a yummy and healthy bird's nest of pretzel sticks, cream cheese, and shredded carrots. Mix all ingredients and shape into a nest or cup form. Enjoy! And while you are munching, think about how a bird builds its entire nest using only its beak! What materials does a bird need to make its nest? What other animals make nests? What other fun facts can you share about living creatures? Be sure to chew and swallow before the discussion begins!

**Children are great observers.** Chart and graph the number of butterflies you see outside your window, or the number of birds you hear on your way to school. How about counting the different trees and leaves you see on a nature walk?

**Plant a seed.** Water it. Be sure to give it plenty of sunshine. Watch, wait, observe! Fill your classroom garden or a garden at home with green and colorful plants and flowers. What will you plant? A flower? A vegetable? Do the seeds look alike or do they look different? Watch as they grow. Do they look alike or different?

**Reader's Theater:**

Spread the word! Teach others the many things you learned and know about protecting our world. Have an Earth Day celebration. Create a song about ways to protect the earth. Act out *Biscuit's Earth Day Celebration!* You'll need a sun, some flowers, clouds, birds, bees, wiggling worms . . . and that's just the beginning. Don't forget to make lots of puppy ears. It's easy with some construction paper. Let your students share an Earth Day picture or poem. Let everyone learn the many ways to celebrate Earth Day!

**Have your own green ribbon ceremony!** You've done it. You and your students have found a special way to celebrate this important day. Hooray! Let's all wear a green ribbon on Earth Day!