

Program Name: Juggling the Earth's Resources

Artist: Laughing Matters

Special Requirements:

One 6' to 8' table

Special Points of Interest:

This show grew out of a short presentation about recycling that was commissioned by Wonderscope Museum and the Kansas Department of Conservation.

Performance Description

The environment is a big issue. Leslie and Jay Cady explore the science behind the dangers to our environment in this humorous and engaging show.

Juggling balls become atoms and molecules to explore the cycle of oxygen and carbon dioxide, ozone depletion, and global warming.

Leslie engages Jay and two audience volunteers in an enactment of the water cycle. The show concludes with a humorous explanation of recycling.

We don't know all of the answers about the dangers to our environment, but we need to know more about those dangers in order to

find solutions. This program is a combination of hysterical fun and solid Earth Science that can be adapted for any elementary school audience.



Educational Objectives & Standards

Students will:

- understand that matter is made of atoms in molecules
- learn about ozone depletion
- see how global warming works
- learn how to reduce, reuse, and recycle

Science:

- Knows that matter is recycled in an ecosystem changing form and location

Theatre:

- Identifies people, events, time, and place in classroom dramatizations

## Artist Bio: Laughing Matters

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Leslie and Jay Cady have been full-time performing artists since 1980. They have performed their engaging blend of juggling, mime, magic, and wacky dialogue in 32 states and seven foreign countries.

Jay and Leslie enjoy using their big bag of tricks to illustrate and reinforce curriculum concepts. Their infectious sense of fun is a hit with students, teachers, and administrators.

In 1984 they studied with legendary mime Marcel Marceau. They were two of 60 students chosen to study

with Marceau in the first two-week workshop he taught in the United States.

They have two daughters who join the act in the summer. When Jay and Leslie were PTA Cultural Arts Chairpersons they saw the need for school assemblies that reinforce curriculum.

Jay and Leslie have twice been nominated for the “Best of Kansas City Theater Awards”. They have performed for ESPN, the National Theater of Guatemala, and the U.S. Department of Defense Overseas Tours.

### List of Resources:

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#### Books:

Loony Little by Dianna Hutts Aston. A tale about a group of friends searching for someone who will care about the fate of the Arctic.

Is Our Planet Warming Up? by Isaac Asimov examines the problem of global warming, its possible causes, and ways to prevent the situation from getting worse.

#### Online Resources:

Environmental Protection Agency: [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

United States Department of Energy  
[www.doe.gov](http://www.doe.gov)

Contact KCYA for more information about this and other programs

816.531.4022  
KCYA.org

### Vocabulary

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**Atom** - A unit of matter, the smallest unit of an element

**Carbon Dioxide** - a heavy colorless gas that is absorbed from the air by plants

**Global Warming** - a warming of the earth’s atmosphere and oceans that is predicted to result from an increase in the greenhouse effect caused by air pollution

**Molecule** - a group of like or different atoms held together by chemical forces

**Ozone** - a gas in our atmosphere that is pollution if we breathe it but shields us from ultraviolet rays if it is in the upper atmosphere

**Reduce** - to plan ahead so you have fewer waste items

**Reuse** - to use again especially in a different way

**Recycle** - to give waste items to someone who can use the materials to make new items

### Post-Performance Activities

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- 1) You can find the molecule NaCl in almost all kitchens and restaurants. “Na” is the symbol for sodium. “Cl” is the symbol for chlorine. What is sodium chloride? (Answer: salt)
- 2) Look for news stories about the environment in the newspaper or on the internet. How might the stories affect your life?
- 3) Find out how you personally can recycle (curbside, a recycling center, or through your school) and what kinds of things you can recycle (paper, plastic, aluminum, etc.).