



BRYLEE MINNICK (above) put a piece of chipboard in the right box at the recycling center. Meanwhile, MaKadyn Ketterl (below right) wasn't quite sure where a clean plastic mayonnaise jar should go.

Youngsters learn how to sort recycle

The 10 youngsters in the Monday-Wednesday-Friday section of the Kids First Learning Center got first-hand (about 20 of them) experience in recycling and waste management Monday.

Becky and Larry Ayers took the youngsters to the Decatur County Recycling Center, where they learned how and why we put paper, cardboard, chip board, books, plastics, old clothes, glass and aluminum and tin cans in big boxes for recycling instead of just tossing them in the trash.

County workers Dan Dempewolf

and Gaylen Huntley showed the kids around the old county shop, explaining the difference between cardboard and chip board and showing them how to spot the numbers in little triangles on the bottoms of plastic bottles to see if they can be recycled and where to put them.

They learned that it's good to recycle No. 1 and No. 2 plastics but not No. 5s and there is no place to take old styrofoam.

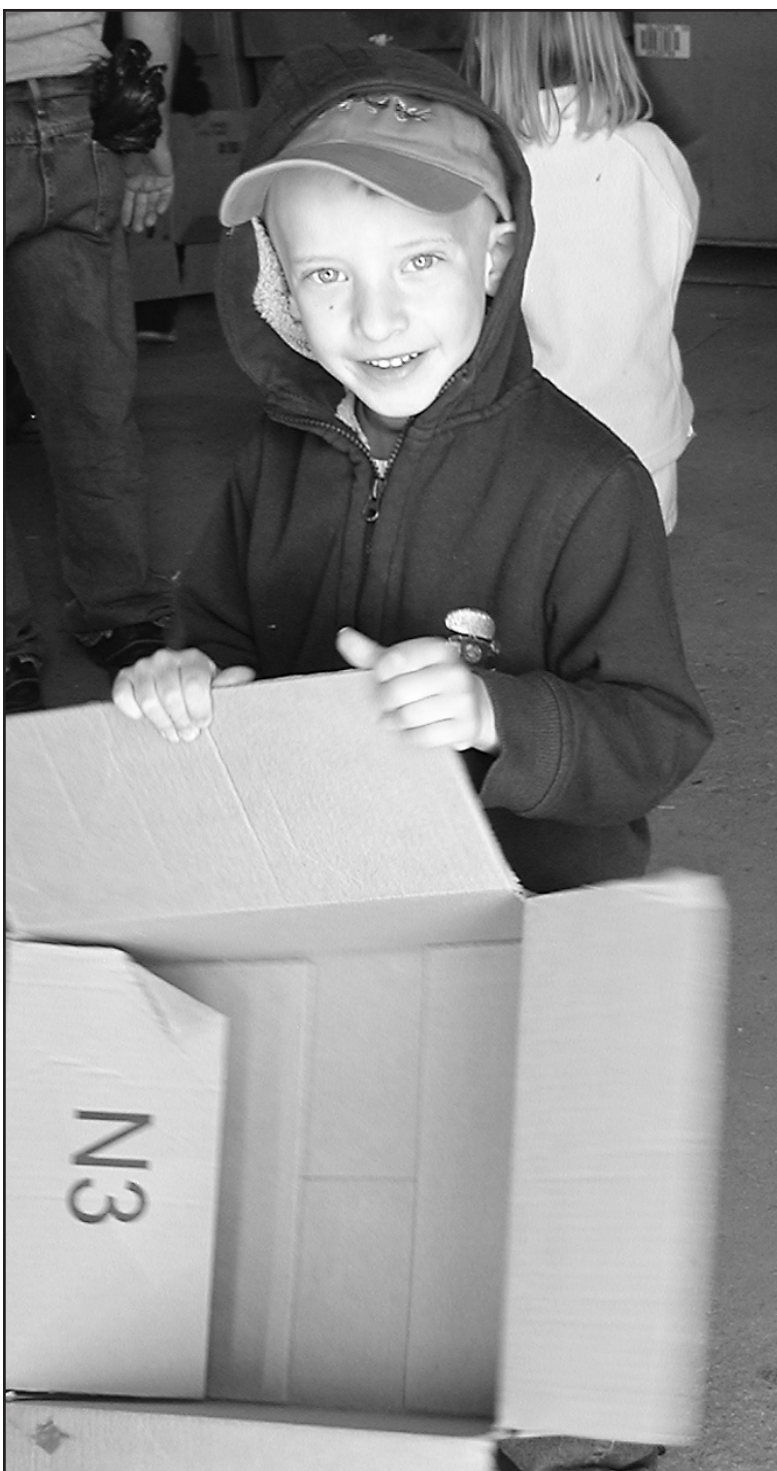
After checking out each box, the children got a chance to do a little recycling themselves, taking paper, plastics and cans and putting them

in the right box. Turned out to be not so easy when you can't see over the edge of the box and reading is still a work in progress.

Still, with a little help from the adults, each piece was put in the correct container by the many little hands and busy feet.

After the recycling center, the children checked out the county's cardboard baler and went to the city sewer plant to look over the lagoons and the compost heap.

"Waste comes in a lot of different things," Mrs. Ayers explained to them.



COUNTY WORKER Dan Dempewolf (above) showed children where to look for the recycle symbol on the bottom of a milk jug. Weston Barnes (left) had to figure out where a cardboard box went for recycling.

– Story and photos by Cynthia Haynes