

SORTALOT NEEDS A HELPER



One of our street cleaning machines.

One of these days there might be 'Sortalots' too but not yet!!! Note the brushes at the front that can move outwards. The children can replicate these with the old toothbrushes

Resources

Start collecting these well before the activity - (give a good few weeks for this.)

Have a bin//box to collect lids, corks toilet roll inners, kitchen roll tubes etc. Ask everyone you know to save old toothbrushes! Get all the staff involved.

The children need to know the kind of model they will be making so explain that as Sortalot's helpers will have to move around they will need to have 'wheels'. There is no 'right way' to make the model, they can use their full imagination (wheels generally do need to be the same size so get them to collect lots of lids in as many colours as possible). Look for large lids and unusual shaped tops (shampoos and fabric softeners are good for these). Trigger spray tops are good, too.

Fixing the model together

Every 'Sortalot' will be different so play this one by ear
PVA glue, rubber bands, paper clips 'Sticky Fixers' and Sellotape are most useful and generally manageable by children. The extra powerful Pritt Sticks are handy to have and less messy than PVA can be.

If the toothbrushes need to be shortened, the job can be done with one of the mini hack saws from the Design Tech tool board.

This activity is great fun, my 'effort' was initially put together without the aid of glue but is quite easy to fix together. It is also easy to take apart and remake – rather like lego but much cheaper!!

Simple Scrap Store

It is a good idea to have a mini scrap store in school and keep it topped up. Small bins with lids containing easy to collect bits and bobs like clean bottle tops, corks, the old toothbrushes, keep a useful selection, in quantity, and easy to hand when needed. An SOS for toilet roll inners can easily be put out: some things are too bulky to store but come in thick and fast when the 'call' is put out.

This is a good exercise in using packaging materials in a creative activity, particularly as people are asked to remove bottle tops before putting the bottles in the recycling banks! Plastic lids, especially, come in many different colours so there is opportunity to make colour a main theme.