ECOKIND PRESENTS

Footi Eco-Workshops

Two hands-on environmental workshops for NYC Public Schools · Grades 3–5



Program Overview

Program	Footi Eco-Workshops: *Footi and the Park* · *Footi and Greeny at Home*
Grade level	Grades 3–5 (ages 8–11), in two editions: Grade 3 and Grades 4–5
Subject areas	Science · Sustainability and climate education · Life skills · Introductory financial literacy
Format	Two in-class sessions, 45 or 60 minutes each
School year	2026–27 · Pilot edition
Provider	EcoKind
Contact	footi@ecokind.org · ecokind.org

1 Why This Program

Footi Eco-Workshops help students in grades 3–5 connect what they learn about the environment to their own everyday choices: what they use, what they throw away, and what they do with things they no longer need. In two hands-on sessions, students practice small, realistic actions they can repeat at home and share with their families.

- **Students know the rule, but not the reason.** Children know that littering is bad and recycling is good. What is often missing is the link to their own life: what do my apple core, my T-shirt and my water bottle have to do with nature?
- **Everyday skills are rarely taught.** Sorting correctly, caring for clothes, cleaning safely, keeping things in order and deciding what to do with an item are skills children use for life.
- **Schools are being asked to do more.** NYC schools hold Climate Action Days, and New York State is phasing in instruction in climate education and personal finance. Teachers need ready, hands-on, age-appropriate material.
- **Learning lasts when it goes home.** Every session ends with something a child makes, takes home and shares with their family.

2 Program at a Glance

Group size	One class of up to about 30 students, seated at 6 tables of 5
Led by	Two EcoKind staff members: a facilitator and Footi (Session 1); Greeny and Footi (Session 2). Both will complete NYC DOE fingerprint clearance (PETS) before the first session
Classroom teacher	Stays in the room and observes. No preparation or co-teaching required
The school provides	A classroom, two dates outside state testing windows and the teacher's presence
EcoKind provides	All materials and gifts, take-home cards for families, a short before-and-after check and a one-page results summary
Book connection	*Footi in the Big City*: Chapter 1 (Session 1) and Chapter 2 (Session 2)
Climate Action Days	Session 1 fits **Waste**; Session 2 fits **Health, Wellness & Green Space**

Meet the characters. Footi is a living ecological footprint: curious, kind and sometimes wrong, so students help him get it right. **Greeny**, a tiny leaf, is his friend; her rule is "Natural doesn't automatically mean safe — always check." Both are played by EcoKind staff in open-face costumes, and Footi's footprint on the board shrinks as the class completes each activity.

3 The Two Sessions

Session 1 · Footi and the Park

Activity	What students do
Meet Footi	Hear Footi's story from Chapter 1 and take on the mission: help him get smaller
My Footprint	Trace and cut out their own footprint from used cereal-box cardboard, then raise it to ask or answer a question
Help Footi sort	Correct Footi's mistakes, sort everyday items into NYC's bins, and tell a steel can from an aluminum one with a magnet
Second Life board	Decide what to do with an item: keep it, give it away, sell it with an adult, use it in a new way, or put it in the right bin
Where does it go? *Grades 4–5*	Follow a plastic bottle's journey and play True or False with Footi's three questions for checking a claim
Cloths for my family	Cut a worn-out T-shirt into cleaning cloths to take home as a gift

Session 2 · Footi and Greeny at Home

Activity	What students do
Meet Greeny	Meet Footi's friend and learn her rule: even natural things need checking
Lemon spray	Mix lemon juice, squeezed in advance by adults, with water, and learn the safety rules
Mirror and spots	Clear water spots and streaks on a mirror with lemon spray; lift a stain with a baking-soda paste
A T-shirt's journey	Put the journey from cotton field to closet in order and guess how much water is hidden in one T-shirt
Tidy up with Greeny	Find a home for every item instead of throwing everything away
Fold a T-shirt and socks	Fold their own gift set and pack it in a tote bag

4 Grade 3 and Grades 4–5

Both editions follow the same two sessions and the same characters. The Grades 4–5 edition goes deeper into facts, evidence and value.

Area	Grade 3	Grades 4–5
Ages and length	8–9 · 45 minutes (60-minute version available)	9–11 · 60 minutes (45-minute version available)

Area	Grade 3	Grades 4–5
The big idea	A footprint is everything we take from nature and everything we give back	An ecological footprint is how much nature it takes to provide what people use and to deal with their waste
Sorting	A quick round in which students correct Footi	A quick round plus "One Item, One Fact": each table explains one item and learns a fact about it
Checking facts	"How do you know?" (True or False in the 60-minute version)	True or False with a LET'S CHECK sign and Footi's three questions
Money and value	An item can be sold with an adult; using what we have keeps coins in the piggy bank	Resale value: a used item costs less than new, and a well-kept item is worth more
T-shirt journey	5 picture cards; the water shown as about 15 bathtubs	7 cards, reading the tag and a world map; about 2,700 liters (an estimate)
Cards and check	Large picture with one or two words; a three-question picture check	Picture-and-word cards; an anonymous five-question check

5 What Students Learn and Take Home

After two sessions, a student can:

- sort common items into NYC's bins and explain one choice with a reason;
- name at least two things to do with an item before throwing it away;
- clean safely with lemon, water and baking soda, and state the safety rules;
- describe a T-shirt's journey from field to closet, and fold a T-shirt and socks.

After Session 1	Cleaning cloths they made, wrapped in a band that says "Made by me for my family" · a Footi magnet · their own cardboard footprint on a stick
After Session 2	The book *Footi in the Big City* · a T-shirt made from recycled materials · socks · a tote bag · a Footi interactive bracelet in its box (not switched on or used at school) · a lemon-spray recipe card · a Home Mission card

6 Standards & School Alignment

The workshops reinforce what students already learn in school; they do not replace core instruction.

Connection	Edition	Where Footi fits
NYS K-ESS3-3 · 2-PS1-1 (review)	Grade 3	Sorting and a second life for things; magnet test; the three layers of a juice carton
NYS 3-LS4-4	Grade 3	The littered park from Chapter 1 and how a solution helps

Connection	Edition	Where Footi fits
NYS 4-ESS3-1 • 5-ESS3-1	Grades 4–5	A bottle made from oil; the water and energy in a T-shirt; where NYC's bins go
NYS 5-LS2-1 • 5-PS1-2 • 5-PS1-3	Grades 4–5	Food scraps become compost; "If you burn trash, it disappears" (False); magnet test
NYS climate education	Both	A hands-on start on the solutions strand. Required for grades 5–8 from 2027–28 and K–4 from 2028–29
NYS personal finance	Both	The "Sell it" zone and taking care of things. Required for grades 5–8 from 2026–27 and K–4 from 2027–28

The state's climate and personal finance requirements are met through instruction by the school's certified teachers. These workshops are a supplement a teacher can build on; how a school counts them is the school's decision. Source: NYSED memo on personal finance and climate education.

7 Safety, Inclusion & Families

- **Safe materials.** Only lemon, water and baking soda; no commercial cleaners. Students do not squeeze lemons, and we ask about citrus allergies in advance. Kids' scissors with rounded tips, acrylic mirrors, open-face costumes.
- **Interactive bracelet.** Handed out in its sealed box at the end of Session 2. It is not switched on or used at school, in line with the NYC Public Schools device policy; a parent decides whether to set it up at home.
- **Every learner.** Picture-and-word cards, sentence starters, partner talk in a home language, IEP and 504 accommodations shared by the teacher, and a role at the table for every student.
- **No judgment.** We never ask what a child owns or what it costs. A footprint is information, not a grade.
- **Families.** A lemon-spray recipe and a Home Mission card to complete with an adult. Cards are available in English and Spanish; other languages on request.

8 Booking a Workshop

1. Email **footi@ecokind.org** with your school, the grade(s) and the number of classes.
2. We agree on session length, two dates, allergies and accommodations, your school's bin colors and family languages.
3. Our team leads both sessions in your classroom and brings everything.
4. Within two weeks of Session 2, you receive a one-page summary of results and teacher feedback.

Detailed facilitator guides for each edition, with session scripts and lesson plans in teacher format, are available on request.