



## Title

MasterPeace Ecology - Children citizens in action

## Description

A course proposed by the Gen 4 Centre (children of the Focolare Movement) which aims to highlight the interconnection between working for Peace and all the other problems at an ecological and social level. The path is based on **the concept of integral ecology**, a concept supported both in the religious and the civil spheres.

## Target group

Children aged 4 to 8/9 years - pre-school and early primary school.

## Objectives

- to promote children's leadership in their own contexts, as citizens and promoters of change
- to encourage cooperation among children
- to boost the exchange of ideas, becoming “contagious” among all, working in groups within associations, schools, parishes and even neighbourhood friends.

## Activities

- the group chooses a name and gradually decides how to organise itself.
- The process is done in stages, including moments of study on environmental issues and lifestyles, moments of observation of the surrounding reality, in order to reach then the implementation of a concrete action.
- The path should be enriched with material from each culture (stories, fables, sayings...) that will allow each topic to be explored in depth according to the different contexts.

Below, in the form of slides, are more details that can guide you, step by step, in the realisation of this training/active path.

**Living Peace is subject to the European Privacy legislation that came into force on 25th May 2018.**

**If you want to share photos and videos of the activities you do with children and teenagers, you have to send us the release form signed by the parents or legal guardians of the child (download the release form [here](#), and send it to the NGO AMU, responsible for the data treatment of the Living Peace International project at the email: [privacy@amu-it](mailto:privacy@amu-it)).**

**If it is not possible to have the release form, remember to send only photos and videos where people, especially minors, are not recognizable.**

**You can send us pictures from above, from behind, where you can see the children doing the activity without taking a frontal view of their faces**

# gen4 Children

*Citizens  
in action*



# MASTER PEACE

## ECOLOGY

### 2021 - 2022





We are children from different parts of the world. There are a lot of us! And we have many ideas! We want to be leaders in the world. This means that we have to be the first ones to do something to make our world more beautiful and welcoming for everyone and this includes not only our own neighborhoods, but also our cities and our countries – wherever we live!



Children  
in action



Let's look for ways  
together to create  
peace and spread it  
everywhere!

**Peace**



# Where can we start?





# MASTER PEACE

ECOLOGY

2021 - 2022

# GO!







First of all, get together and decide to form a group.

It can be with your friends, with your brothers and sisters, with your classmates, with the children in your catechism class or from your sports team. When we do things together, we have more strength! Choose a name for your group and then start on your journey. To **become an expert you need to become informed by learning more about ecology. Then you also need ideas so that you can** start doing a project together that will benefit other people.







*Let's learn:*

### **REDUCE - REUSE - RECYCLE**

These three words open the door to infinite possibilities to protect our planet and to circulate goods so that everyone can benefit from them.

#### **REDUCE**



#### **REUSE**



#### **RECYCLE**



**Children** Citizens  
in action





The world pulls us this way and that way, telling us that to be happy you have to do certain things, or have many things, and it continuously offers us new things to acquire. But then we are not always happy when we have these things! We often want still more! And maybe we throw away the things we have!

# MASTER PEACE ECOLOGY 2021 - 2022

Let's learn:

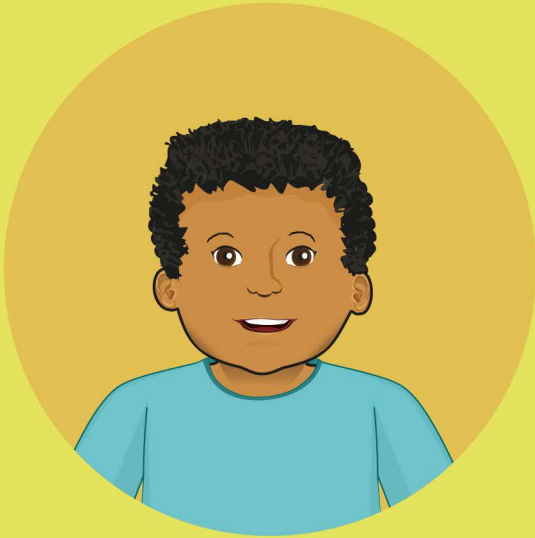
Pathway **B**

Look at a plant: if it doesn't get enough water it dies, but if it gets too much water, it also dies! In fact, a plant takes from the soil only what it needs to grow.



# First Stage:

A beautiful house, but...  
treated badly!





*Now it's your turn!*



**First stage:**

There are so many beautiful things around us...  
do we know about them? But are there only  
beautiful things?

With your team, together with the adults  
accompanying you, set out to discover a place  
close by (in your city, village or neighborhood).  
Take some paper to draw or write on, or a camera  
or mobile phone to take photos and look for:

- anything that strikes you because it is beautiful  
and joyful and makes you feel good, something  
you like to look at – like a flower, a butterfly, an  
animal, a clean stream... or even two people  
helping each other!
- anything else that makes you sad when you look  
at it, something that is painful, like litter tossed on  
the grass, a wall with ugly graffiti, a broken bench  
or other things...)



**Children** Citizens  
in action

*Now it's your turn!*



**First stage:**

After you make this tour to discover what is around you, what can you say about it?

Tell the story by drawing a picture or painting a poster, or write a manifesto for an important message, a story or fairy tale about it.



Citizens  
**Children**  
in action

# TURITAHO

**MASTER  
PEACE**  
ECOLOGY  
2021-2022

Pathway **B**



*This is what we did:*

It was an opportunity to “take care” of these people who were so lonely. We brought them some food, but above all we gave them a lot of joy. We sang, danced and laughed with them. We asked them questions, such as how old they were. We were really surprised to learn that some of these elderly people were over a hundred years old! (Gen4 – Burundi, Africa)

In Bujumbura in Burundi we got together to better understand how to live "TURITAHO" (“To care for” in the language of Burundi). We learned how to take care of the environment and realized that even the small gestures we do can protect nature. Therefore, we started something concrete and collected plastic and garbage in our big city park where people go to play sports and also where major cultural events are held. After that, we focused on taking care of people. We learned how to take care of our family members (parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters), but also friends from the neighborhood or school. With a smaller group of children, we visited lonely elderly people in a care home run by Sisters.



**Children** Citizens  
in action



# Now it's your turn!

But what do you want to do? What makes you feel happy?

You will discover that you are the one - we are the ones - who can change the world with our small gestures. So together with the other Gen 4 choose a project that you are able to accomplish.



# Let's make people hear what we have to say! To live happily all over the earth, we should...

What did you discover from this project about how we should live?

- What is the best idea you had and then actually accomplished and that you really want everyone to know about?
- What do you think is the most important thing you discovered and that you would like everyone on earth to know?

Write down your message and find a way to send it to the mayor of your city, to the principal of your school, to local or national politicians, to the president or prime minister of your country, to your king or queen if you have one.

- Send your registration form to [gen4@focolare.org](mailto:gen4@focolare.org), & [c.palma@livingpeaceinternational.org](mailto:c.palma@livingpeaceinternational.org) with your story, with a video or photos...

