

Teaching Good Habits for Clean Water

Voice-over 1:

Indoors in the warm, water becomes a learning tool at this state school in Alandsbro, some five hundred kilometres north of Sweden's capital, Stockholm. Here it's the teen students on the front line, teaching seven year-olds how scarce fresh water is on Earth compared to salt water. They explain to them that polluted fresh water must be cleaned to ensure a good quality of drinking water around the world. Far from just being something easily on tap, it's precious, and hard earned. Unlike the applause for the novice teachers, it seems the message is getting across.

Voice-over 2:

Cleaning water's important so you don't get sick and you don't destroy the environment around you.

Voice-over 3:

We don't have much fresh water that's clean.

Voice-over 4:

I think it's important to know different ways of cleaning water.

Voice-over 1:

The seven year-olds also get to experiment. They're running a recycling model. Used, dirty water coming from the aquarium below is pumped up into a small vegetable garden. Natural chemical processes in the plants and soil clean the water, which is later fed back into the aquarium. Children are encouraged to measure temperature and conduct experiments on samples. They learn that cleaning waste water is a simple process, with added environmental benefits.

Birgitta Holmgren-Wallin:

They wanted to know how our fresh water was cleaned, I mean here, in our city. So we have to work with that now, er, because they just understood that it's the same water we have all the time and we need to clean it. And we also discussed what should we do with dangerous things like medicine or oil or so... can we put it in the toilet, or in-in the forest or so? Or do we-do we have to do something else with it?

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