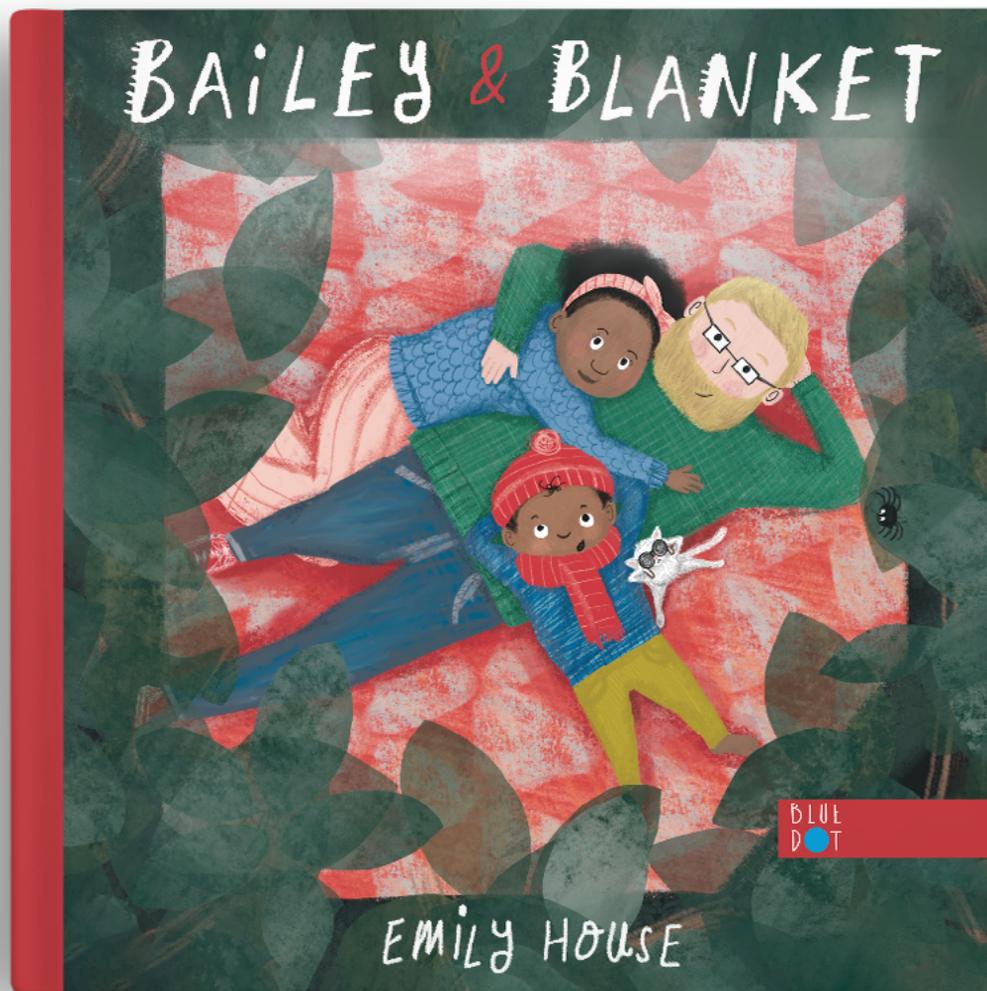




A Guide on Upcycling

from Blue Dot Kids Press



“A sweet story that proves love is the best security blanket.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Charming. . . . A great way to demonstrate resilience.”

—*Booklist*

Bailey & Blanket, written and illustrated by Emily House
Pub Date April 26, 2022 | ISBN 9781737603221 | Ages 3-7

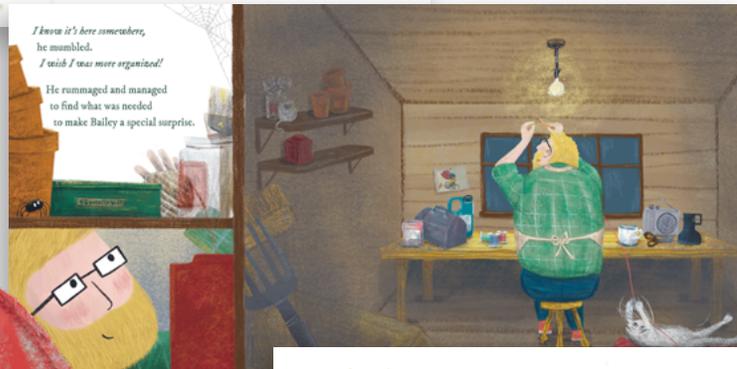
About Upcycling

Upcycling sounds a bit like recycling—so what makes it different?

When an object is *recycled*, it often gets broken down before it is used to make something of the same or lower value as before. It is still better than it ending up in a landfill! However, *upcycling*—also known as repurposing—is the process of taking something that would be waste and turning it into something of equal or greater value. Upcycling is one of the best ways to increase the life of an object without adding to the large amount of waste and recycling content that humans discard every day.

From Blanket to Backpack

In *Bailey & Blanket*, Bailey’s blanket gets torn when they are trying to pull it away from the dog at the park. Bailey is sad because the blanket is very special, and they think it will have to be thrown away. Luckily, Bailey’s dad thinks of a creative upcycling solution!



Why and How Should We Upcycle?

Upcycling can be a way to use an old thing that is not serving a purpose. It can also be a way to avoid buying something new. It is important when considering an upcycling project to answer the question “What is the new and better purpose I am giving to this material?” If that is not an easy question to answer, there might be a better use for that material.

When you plan your upcycling project, be conscious of the other materials required for the project. Challenge yourself to make something new without creating any waste!

Activity Examples

The following activities can be found in one of the links below, or through a simple internet search!

- ▶ Old Magazine → Woven Coasters or Placemats
- ▶ Worn-Out Jeans → Garden Apron or Doggie Chew Toy
- ▶ Empty Tin Can → Art Supply Holder
- ▶ Too-Small T-shirt and Old Shoelaces → Drawstring Bag



Resources for Upcycling Inspiration

We Are Teachers: <https://www.weareteachers.com/earth-day-crafts-classroom-activities/>

Upcycle That: <https://www.upcyclethat.com/make-that/kids/>

Upcycle My Stuff: <https://upcyclemystuff.com/upcycled-crafts-gifts/#kids>

The Natural Parent Magazine: <https://thenaturalparentmagazine.com/best-upcycling-activities-to-do-with-your-kids/>

Companies Who Can Upcycle Your Stuff

PROJECT REPAT | <https://www.projectrepat.com/>
Turn lots of old T-shirts into a cozy blanket!

PRECIOUS PLASTIC | <https://preciousplastic.com/universe/recycling-spaces.html>
Collect short-lived plastic from participating communities and turn it into long-lasting functional and artistic products!