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 **P R E S S R E L E A S E**

 **2nd March, 2022**

**Going green is kids’ stuff**

Anyone with kids knows they generate a lot of ‘stuff’ from birth to leaving home.

This is all potential waste which has an impact on our planet.

Starting right at the beginning, the UK has to deal with around three billion disposable nappies each year, representing an estimated two to three per cent of all household waste.

From birth to potty training, the average baby will go through 4,000 to 6,000 disposable nappies which cost hundreds of pounds and take hundreds of years to decompose.

By comparison, a baby only needs 20-30 real nappies which can be washed, re-used and passed on to any future siblings. The South Yorkshire Nappy Library offers a loan service and lots of tips and advice on their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/southyorkshirenappylibrary](http://www.facebook.com/southyorkshirenappylibrary)

Fast forward a few years, the average cost of school uniform is £230 per child, not including sport and PE kits and even more for secondary school pupils. Many schools and communities are starting swap shops where items can be passed on. A handy guide to starting a swap shop is at [www.wasteless-sy.co.uk](http://www.wasteless-sy.co.uk)

More than eight million new, perfectly good toys are thrown away every year in the UK. These toys can be passed on or donated to charity.

A campaign to encourage more re-use of kids’ stuff has been launched by the Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham (BDR) Waste Partnership and Renewi, the firm behind the waste treatment facility at Manvers.

Community Education Liaison Officer Abi Reid, who is based at Manvers, said that many things children outgrow can be donated rather than thrown away.

“Make sure clothing is clean and damage free, toys and games should be in good condition with all the pieces, and books are accepted by many charity shops. If you want new books to read, check out your local library.”

The campaign is part of a Re-use Revolution in South Yorkshire which has already tackled plastic bottles, cutlery, straws, carrier bags, tea bags, coffee pods, hot drinks and beauty products. More information about all these is at [www.wasteless-sy.co.uk](http://www.wasteless-sy.co.uk)

**Note to Editors: The waste treatment facility at Manvers processes around a quarter of a million tonnes of leftover waste a year from 340,000 homes across Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham, turning it into useful products rather than sending it to landfill.**

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