**STORYLINE FOR KIDS --THE STORM WATER MODEL:**

*After having prepared the model and all gadgets, bottles related to it, turn to audience:*

Pollution. What do you think of when you hear this word? Most of the time you think of garbage on the streets and our lawns, and we often hear about the air pollution. But we need to remember about the pollution that seeps from all the activities we do, into our rivers and lakes!

We live in a watershed. Like this one! This area drains to our water bodies (show the lake and tributaries)

Now let me tell you a little story about what happens when the activities we do at home, at work, on farms, affects the quality of our water.

RESIDENTIAL, AND FARM:

Little Tommy lives with his family in this area right here (point to residential area). At home, Tommy helps his mother create a beautiful lawn. They place fertilizer on the lawn (Pick a volunteer: sprinkle green powder on lawns).

Tommy’s dad works in construction. He needs to clear big fields and dig up the ground to create new houses. There is a lot of sand and dirt on the construction field (sprinkle cocoa powder). He is a busy man, and is also in charge of cutting down trees to make some wood for the houses! (Remove a few trees from the forest and sprinkle cocoa onto cleared forest). When there are lots of people living in an area, and all these people need to go to the bathroom, where does all the waste go? Right here (point to sewage plant, add cocoa powder).

After work, Tommy’s dad likes to go play golf. Has anybody seen big golf courses? What do they look like? Yes, they are so green and perfectly constructed. A lot of work goes into creating them, and a lot of fertilizers and pesticides as well to help push away little weeds and make the grass green and neat! (Sprinkle green and red powder)

One day, Tommy decides to go visit his uncle who is a farmer! He walks along, eating a sandwich and throws the paper aside when he’s done (place a scrunched up piece of paper in ditch near road). He shouldn’t have done that, and we’ll show you why in a little bit. Tommy arrives at the farm and sees all of Farmer Jones cows who like to wander right up to the water. Cows eat, and what comes in must come out! (smudge brown muck on ground near waterway).

He also has big fields where he grows corn and uses fertilizers on his corn field to make they grow big! (choose volunteer to sprinkle green powder on field)

We all love corn don’t we! But what other little creature likes corn too?? (see if anyone can guess)

* Little bugs! So farmer Jones needs to add insecticides to make them go away ( volunteer for red powder)

Tommy then decides to go visit his mom at her work! She’s the CEO of a big company and works in this building here (point to building). They are in charge of producing paper, lots and lots of paper! All kinds of paper! But they also produce a lot of toxic waste to produce all this paper (sprinkle a bit of brown cocoa on roof of building)..

All in all, everyone lives happily… But…

What happens when it rains!? (spray water on lawns, fields, golf course, construction site, ditches….)

Oh no! Everything is leading towards the river! (make sure you see the river change in colour)

What happened? Why is the lake like this now? Let`s reflect together on what we did earlier.

* All of us in our daily activities are polluters!
  + We added fertilizers and insecticides to our lands to make the grass greener, and the corn bigger
  + We throw away garbage on the streets! That`s not where garbage goes now does it! Where goes it go? Yes, the garbage can.
  + Farmer Jones let his cows around and in the water, and the cow poop goes directly into the water!
  + We took away the trees from the forest to build more houses. This leaves the soil vulnerable and loose, and it slowly moves towards the water.
  + We produce a lot of toxic waste (bad stuff) when we are producing all that paper!
  + All the toilet waste coming from our homes can spill into the river system if it overflows like it did here!

Now let’s look at our water – it’s polluted and the fish are not happy about this situation. Their home is being destroyed! But we also drink from this water! Who here would drink this water?

We need to do something! Let’s work together.

* How about we put a fence around the cows so that they don`t go into the water? What do you think?
* How about we plant more vegetation and trees around the water to keep the bad stuff out!

(for adults: this vegetation strip along the lakeshore will prevent soil from washing into the waterbody, it acts as a buffer)

* We can also plant more trees in our neighbourhood! This will help hold the moisture and hold soil and nutrients on land rather than being loose and washing away.
* What can we do in our own homes?
  + DON`T flush chemicals or stuff down the toilet or drain, as this leads directly to the river!
  + How about we create a rain garden! A rain garden will he help absorb the water and nutrients so it doesn`t leak into our rivers (plant some vegetation in residential area)
  + Let`s pick up after our dogs, Don`t let the poop accumulate on the lawn. And you get rid of the stinky smell too! (brush away the brown muck off the lawns, especially around the water)
  + Use less water when you wash your car
* We can even put vegetation on the roofs of the industrial company! It will absorb the rainwater and reduce seepage of toxic chemicals into our water.