Sustainability Policy

Aim

Our service aims to help children learn about and implement sustainable practices and foster respect and care for the living and non-living environment.

Implementation

Children develop positive attitudes and values about sustainable practices by engaging in learning experiences, joining in discussions that explore solutions to environmental issues, and watching adults modelling sustainable practices. Children learn to live interdependently with the environment.

Environmental Sustainability and our Curriculum

Our educators will promote a holistic, open-ended curriculum which explores ideas and practices for environmental sustainability and helps children understand the interdependence between people and the environment by:-

- Connecting children to nature through art and play and allowing children to experience the natural environment through natural materials like wood, stone, sand and recycled materials, plants including native vegetation, a vegetable garden with gardening tools and watering cans.
- Open childrens’ awareness to water conservation, energy efficiency and waste reduction.
- Encouraging children to reduce litter in lunch boxes by bringing fruit, and food in reusable containers.
- Celebrating children’s environmental knowledge and using sustainable practices such as recycling, composting and keeping a worm farm.
- Involving children in nature walks, education about plants and gardening and growing plants from seeds.
- Engaging children in the food cycle by growing, harvesting and then cooking this food.
- Enlisting help from the community eg Recycling depots, Op Shop, local council, bush care groups, who have expertise in environmental issues.
- Acknowledging and celebrating environmental awareness events like Schools Tree Day and Clean Up Australia Day.

Role of Educators

Our educators will model sustainable practices by embedding sustainability into all aspects of the daily running of our service operations including:-

- Recycling materials for curriculum and learning activities
- Minimising waste and effectively using service resources
- Turning off equipment and lights when not in use
Using the least hazardous cleaning substances (eg ordinary detergent for cleaning dirt from tables and other surfaces)

Composting and feeding scraps to worms and chooks.

Maintaining a vegetable and herb garden and growing fruit trees.

Incorporating water wise strategies such as drip irrigation and ensuring taps are turned off and leaks fixed.

Children tasting food that we have grown and using in cooking activities and meals where possible.

**Partnerships with Families and Community**

Our educators will facilitate collaborative partnerships with local community groups, government agencies and others to enhance and support children’s learning about sustainable practices.

We will share communications, brochures and fact sheets on sustainable practices like reducing, recycling, saving water and power and green cleaning with our children and families.

Families are encouraged to participate in decision making and information sharing about environmental sustainability through our newsletters, parent input, and wall displays.

National Quality Standards  3.3, 6.1.2, 6.3, 6.3.1, 6.3.4