



Environmental Sustainability

Review Date: 01/12/2018

Introduction

Our Vision Statement concludes: *"Together we make the world a better place"*.

As part of our commitment to this core value, we can encourage and increase awareness of environmental responsibilities and implement practices that contribute to a sustainable future.

Children are supported to be respectful and responsible for their environment.

Environmentally sustainable practices are embedded into the routines of our education and care services through collaboration between educators, children and families.

Goals – What are we going to do?

Children's awareness of the environment is promoted through daily practices, resources and interactions. Sustainable practices are encouraged within our education and care service. Educators, children and families are encouraged to problem solve and become advocates for a sustainable future.

Strategies - How will it be done?

The Approved Provider will:

- Encourage educators, families and children to engage in innovative practices and appreciate the wonder of the natural world while protecting the planet for future generations.
- Support educators to make sustainable practices part of the daily routine, including but not restricted to:
 - »» Recycling
 - »» Gardening
 - »» Energy conservation
 - »» Water conservation
 - »» Sustainable equipment purchases

Educators will:

- Research and liaise with other education and care services, networks and professional bodies to keep up to date on practices and ideas for sustainability.

- Include recycling as part of everyday practice at the education and care service. Recycling containers will be provided throughout the service.
- Role model sustainable practices.
- Discuss sustainable practices with the children and families as part of the curriculum.
- Provide information to families on sustainable practices that are implemented at our services and encourage the application of these practices in the home environment.
- Share ideas between educators, children and families about sustainable ideas, implementation and resources. This can be done at parent meetings, through documentation, emails, on social media, newsletters and conversations.
- Use a worm farm, (other pets such as chooks, etc.) and/or composting bin to reduce food waste in the services. Children are assisted to place food scraps into separate containers for use in the worm farm or the composting bin. Educators will intentionally teach children and families which scraps worms, chooks, etc. can eat and which foods can be composted. The children will be involved in maintaining the worm farm and compost and other animals where appropriate.
- Role model energy and water conservation practices of turning off lights and air-conditioning when a room is not in use, emptying water play containers onto garden areas, monitoring water use in play and in the bathroom, intentionally teaching the value of water through the use of tanks for water play.
- Review chemicals such as garden and cleaning products used for environment impact, health and safety.
- Involve children in problem solving environmental issues within the service and their wider community.
- Aim to purchase equipment that is eco-friendly where possible. Educators will reduce the amount of plastic and disposable equipment they purchase and will recycle or select materials that are made of natural materials and fibres.
- Seek to embed sustainable practice in the education and care service. The concepts of “reduce, re-use and recycle” will become part of everyday practice for both children and educators to build lifelong attitudes towards sustainable practices.
- Use local Council and Government departments as sources of information on sustainable practices used in the local community. They will liaise with the Council and Government departments for possible grants available to put in place water and energy conservation practices to compliment water tanks, dual flush toilet cisterns and solar already in use.

Statutory Legislation & Considerations

Education and Care Services
National Regulations

Guide to the National Quality
Standard (3)ACECQA (2011)

Environment Protection &
Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Energy Efficiency Opportunities Act
2006

Sources

NSW Department of Environment
and Heritage –
www.environment.nsw.gov.au

•Department of Sustainability,
Environment, Water, Population
and Communities –
www.environment.gov.au

Early Childhood Environmental
Education Network –
www.eceen.org.au

Links to other policies

Cleaning and Maintaining the
Environment

Interactions with Children

Evaluation

Our education and care environment reflects sustainable practices, 'Green Cleaning' and eco-friendly choices. Educators, children, families and the wider community will learn together and embrace environmentally friendly practices.

Adopted by the Management Committee

Signed by: Naomi Simpson, President

Date Signed: 01/12/2016

REVIEW DATE: 01/12/2018