

Environmental Sustainability

POLICY STATEMENT:

Our service aims to increase the awareness of environmental responsibility for children, educators and families. We aim to make our practices eco-friendly and involve all children, families and educators so that we are successful in reducing our environmental impact. Sustainability is embedded in both our philosophy and program.

PROCEDURE:

a) **Routines**

- Children, families and educators will share and engage in eco-friendly practices to encourage children and their families to develop an awareness of the need to protect the planet and it's future for the generations to come.
- The service will make the following part of their daily routine:
 - ✓ Recycling
 - ✓ Energy Conservation
 - ✓ Gardening
 - ✓ Purchasing sustainable equipment
 - ✓ Using recycled material for craft
 - ✓ Sustainability to be included in newsletters
 - ✓ Sustainability to be an item on meeting agendas and relate to the Quality Improvement Plan
 - ✓ Saving leftover water to place in the garden.
 - ✓ Turn off taps, light switches etc.
- Review procedures and policies regularly to ensure there is an underlying focus on sustainable practices.
- Reduce paper by considering electronic newsletters, invoices, enrolment records etc.
- Keep up to date with your local council and Government departments regarding information on sustainable practices in your local community. Look for grants that allow you to improve water and energy conservation.
- Educators to role model good sustainable practices.
- Use recycled materials as containers instead of using new plastic containers.
- Encourage children to recycle paper. Put a recycle container on the craft table to encourage them to use it.



- Sustainability will be embedded in the program. Discuss it with the children and the families. Ask the children and the families to come up with some ideas to improve the sustainability of the service.
- Get the children to be in charge of a Sustainability Checklist so they can be responsible for things such as recycling, gardening, water usage etc.
- Consider establishing a vegetable garden, worm farm and compost bin where possible or see if you can contribute to the host schools facilities. Discuss with the children how it all works and why we need to do this.
- Reduce the amount of plastic and disposable equipment at the service and aim to purchase materials made from natural fibres.
- Promote the motto “Reduce, re-use and recycle” via posters etc. and make it a natural process for all concerned.
- Email information to families about how they can help their children learn about sustainability and what they can do at home, as well as at the service.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Education and Care Services National Law & Regulations	National Quality Standards & Elements	Links to other Service Policies	Other Documentation/ Evidence
S168 R108, 110, 113	Standards 1.2, 3.2, 5.2 Elements 1.2.1, 1.2.3, 3.2.3, 5.2.1	- Providing a Child Safe Environment Policy - Interactions with Children Policy	My Time Our Place Parent Handbook Staff Handbook Sustainability book/checklist Meeting minutes

Version	Date completed	Date endorsed	Review Date
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