

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

POLICY STATEMENT

Our service aims to increase the awareness of environmental responsibility within the service. We strive to ensure that our practices are eco-friendly and involve all children, families, educators and the community so that we are successful in reducing our environmental footprint.

CONSIDERATIONS

Education and Care Services National Regulations	108, 110,113
National Quality Standard	QA1, 3.2, 5.2
Other Service Policies/Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing a Child Safe Environment Policies• Interactions with Children Policy• Educator Meeting Minutes• Family Handbook• Educator Handbook• Sustainability Folder
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• My Time, Our Place

PROCEDURE

a) Program

- The program will be based on the service's philosophy
- 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 and plants including native vegetation and vegetable gardens
 - Celebrating children's environment knowledge and sustainable activities
 - Involving children in nature walks, education about plants and gardening and growing plants and flowers from seeds, composting and worm farming
 - Engaging children in learning about the food cycle by growing, harvesting, composting and preparing food for use in our kitchen when possible
 - Having opportunities for children to be outside and engaged in nature whenever possible

- Having OOSH pets so the children learn responsibility, respect and how to appropriately care for living things

b) 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 its future for the generations to come
- The service will make the following part of their daily routines:
 - Recycling
 - Water conservation
 - Energy conservation
 - Gardening
 - Purchasing sustainable equipment
 - Using recycled materials for craft and activities
 - Sustainability to be an item on educator meeting agendas
 - Composting and worm farming
- Review procedures and policies regularly to ensure there is an underlying focus on sustainable practices
- Keep up to date with Local Council and Government departments regarding information on sustainable practices in the local community.

c) Reduce

- Reduce the amount of waste we produce
- Monitor children's meals and serving sizes closely and change ordered food quantities as necessary
- Encourage children to use resources appropriately and reasonably and discuss what unnecessary waste can do to our environment
- Minimise printed notes by communicating with families and educators through email, website, Class Dojo, Workplace and in person
- Monitor children's handwashing closely to ensure taps are turned off and water not wasted
- Buy in bulk to lessen packaging waste
- Reduce the use of hazardous substances by using environmentally friendly alternatives where possible

d) Re-use

- Use resources for multiple purposes
- Re-use excess/unrequired printing and documents etc as scrap paper or for children's drawing/scribbling
- Put food scraps in the compost bins and worm farms
- Keep cardboard packaging, jars etc for craft and construction use

e) Recycle

- Provide recycling bins at the centre and encourage children to use it
- Recycle by separating items that can be used again
- Encourage recycling during craft and other activities
- Ask families to donate recycled paper/materials suitable for craft etc from home or workplaces

f) Turn it off

- Turn off computers and any other unnecessary equipment at the end of each week
- Use natural air through windows when weather allows and turn off air conditioners when not needed
- Use natural light whenever possible
- Turn off refrigerator's light when not needed
- Turn off fans when not needed