



Environmental Sustainability Policy

Introduction:

As an education and care community we aim to provide awareness, encourage environmental responsibilities and implement practices that contribute to a sustainable future. Children are supported to become environmentally responsible and show respect for the environment. These environmentally sustainable practices are evident within our centre and involve our educators, children and families creating a successful united approach.

Aim:

- Toukley Preschool will ensure the environment is safe, clean and well maintained.
- Toukley Preschool will enrich children's experiences through interactions with their natural environment.
- Children's awareness of the environment will be promoted through daily practices, resources and interactions.
- Toukley Preschool will encourage sustainable practices within the centre, encouraging staff, children and families to work towards a "green" environment and community and become advocates for a sustainable future.
- We will encourage children to learn and also explain nature's life cycle.
- We aim to provide an environment free from harmful chemicals becoming a chemical free centre (COVID-19 impacted).
- We aim to have a waste management plan, which will include nude food snacks and lunches.

Implementation:

The Approved Provider will:

- ◁ Consider current research and strategies, participate in an environmental education network and/or liaise with other education and care services to keep up to date on practices and ideas for sustainability at the service
- ◁ 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.

Educators will:

- ◁ Educators will make sustainable practices a part of the daily routine. These include:
 - » Recycling
 - » Gardening
 - » Energy conservation
 - » Water conservation
 - » Sustainable equipment purchases
 - » Using green clean products where possible (COVID impacted)
 - » Waste management
 - » Maintaining the worm farm and compost bin
- ◁ 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 services education and care curriculum.
- ◁ Provide information to families on sustainable practices that are implemented at the education and care service 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 through Storypark and conversations.
- ◁ Use a worm farm or composting bin to reduce food waste in the education and care service. Children will be encouraged to place food scraps into separate containers for use in the worm farm or the composting bin.

Educators will discuss with the children and families which scraps, worms can eat and which foods can be composted. The children will be involved in maintaining the worm farm and compost.

◁ 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.

◁ Aim to purchase equipment that is eco-friendly where possible. Educators will reduce the amount of plastic and disposable equipment they purchase and 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 in the education and care service. These may include water tanks, grey water systems, converting toilet cisterns to dual flush and converting to water saving taps.

Evaluation:

The 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.

Families and staff are essential stakeholders in the policy review process and will be given opportunity and encouragement to be actively involved.

In accordance with R. 172 of the Education and Care Services National Regulations, the service will ensure that families of children enrolled at the service are notified at least 14 days before making any change to a policy or procedure that may have significant impact on the provision of education and care to any child enrolled at the service; a family’s ability to utilise the service; the fees charged or the way in which fees are collected.

Legislative Requirements:

- ◁ Education and Care Services National Regulations
- ◁ ACECQA’s Guide to the National Quality Framework
- ◁ Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Links to National Quality Standard:

- ◁ Education and Care Services National Regulations: 113, Schedule National Quality Standard
- ◁ National Quality Standards/ Elements: 3.2.3, 6.1.1

Sources:

- ◁ Australian Association for Environmental Education - www.aaee.org.au
- ◁ NSW Government Office of Environment and Heritage – www.environment.nsw.gov.au
- ◁ Department of the Environment and Energy – www.environment.gov.au
- ◁ Early Childhood Environmental Education Network – www.eceen.org.au
- ◁ ACECQA - Guide to the NQF - www.acecqa.gov.au/nqf/about/guide

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