



3.03 Environmental Sustainability Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

We encourage awareness of environmental responsibilities and implement practices that contribute to a sustainable future. Children are supported to become environmentally responsible and show respect for the environment. Sustainability is often thought about in terms of environmental sustainability—reducing waste, minimising consumption and protecting and conserving wildlife and natural habitats.

AIM

We aim to ensure the environment is safe, clean and sustainable. We believe in educating children about being environmentally responsible which is promoted through daily practices, resource and interactions. Sustainable practice will be encouraged within the service, assisting children and families to become advocates for a sustainable future.

STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

Learning about being environmentally responsible starts with everyday practice. We believe being environmentally responsible should be embedded into the operations of the service. Our service is committed to protecting our environment to ensure a sustainable future for our children. This involves Educators, children and families working together to protect our environment as we educate children about the importance of being environmentally responsible within our everyday practice.

Management will:

- Network with the local community to keep up to date with current practices and ideas for being environmentally responsible. This may include water tanks, grey water system, converting toilet cisterns to dual flush and converting water saving taps.
- Encourage educators, families and children to engage in innovative practices and appreciate the natural environment.
- Where relevant, review policies and procedures within the service to find more sustainable outcomes.
- Where possible electronic communication will be used to reduce paper use within the office and in each room for newsletters, billing and other communication needs.
- Conduct environmentally responsible audits to ensure consistency and continuous improvement
- Source resources and materials from Reverse Garbage or second-hand stores to use within the service.
- Ensure sustainable practices are incorporated into the daily routine. These will include:

Sustainable Practice	Ideas
Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Recycling paper and rubbish- Using recycled water
Gardening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Planting vegetables, herbs and fruits- Establishing a Worm Farm

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Give food scraps to worms and chickens - Educating children and have them participate in 'garden to plate' activities. Educating children about seed sprouting, weeding, vegetable gardens, cooking etc. - Collaborate with the local community - Discuss serving small amounts of food to reduce waste
Energy Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Turn off lights and switches when not in use
Water Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Using half flush on the toilet - Turning off the water when not in use - Encouraging shorter showers - Turning off tap when brushing teeth - Collect rain water and use in the garden, for water/sand play
Natural Resources & Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Caring for pets - Reusing natural materials – trees, blocks, boxes etc - Educating children in the natural decomposition cycle through exposure and participation in worm farms and composting food scraps - Educating children in how to care for pets, letting them actively participate in caring for Alby, the chickens and fish - Plant 'bird attracting' plants and install a birdbath - Collaborate with wildlife educators to assist in educating children
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Display in the foyer area information for families and visitors outlining the service's sustainability journey - Provide families with hints and tips in newsletters about how they can become sustainable at home

Educators will:

- Incorporate recycling as part of everyday practice at the service. Recycling containers will be provided throughout meal times and experiences.
- Role model environmentally responsible practices.
- Discuss environmentally responsible practices with the children and families & local community as part of the curriculum.
- Provide information to families on environmentally responsible practices that are implemented at the service and encourage the application of these practices in the home environment.

- Share ideas between educators, children and families about environmentally responsible ideas, implementation and resources. This will be followed through our communication strategies, including parent meetings, emails, newsletters and conversations.
- Use a worm farm/composting bin/ to reduce food waste in the service. Children will be encouraged to place food scraps into separate containers for use in the worm farm, composting bin and for the chickens. Educators will discuss with the children and families, which scraps worms can eat, which foods can be composted and what the chickens can eat. The children will be involved in maintaining the worm farm, compost bin and feeding the chickens daily.
- Seek to purchase equipment that is environmentally friendly where possible. Educators will reduce the amount of plastic and disposable equipment they purchase and select materials that are made of natural materials.
- Use the concept of 'reduce, re-use and recycle', which will become part of everyday practice for both children and Educators to build lifelong attitudes towards environmentally responsible practices.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS

Children (Education and Care Services) National Law NSW

- National Quality Standards

SOURCE LIST

This section contains websites, industry bodies, or Legislation that have been used to assist in sourcing the information for this policy. It also acts as a guide to sourcing further reading on each relevant policy.

- [Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority](#)
- [Early Childhood Australia - Code of Ethics](#)
- [Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011](#)
- [Guide to the National Quality Standard](#)
- [Revised National Quality Standard](#)
- [More than a worm farm: Supporting children to be environmentally responsible](#)

RELATED POLICIES

- 1.01 Educational Curriculum Policy
- 3.01 Animal Policy
- 3.02 Safe Physical Environment Policy

POLICY REVIEW

The review schedule has been developed using a risk assessment methodology with consideration given to sector, industry, and legislative changes.

Date reviewed	Policy changed		Modifications	Next Review Date
May 2018	Yes	No	Minor adjustments made with further suggestions on how to embed sustainability into everyday practice. Included new resource "More than a worm farm: Supporting children to be environmentally responsible."	June 2019