



Environmental Sustainability Policy

Introduction:

As an education centre within the community we can encourage and increase awareness of environmental issues both local, nationally and internationally. Children can be supported to become environmentally responsible and to show respect for the environment.

Aim:

- To ensure Maryland Care & Early Education has a safe, clean and well maintained environment
- To promote children's awareness of the environment through daily practices, resources and interactions
- To encourage sustainable practices within our service
- To encourage educators, children and families to become advocates for a sustainable future

Legislative Requirements / Sources:

Education and Care Service National regulations (2011)
Code of Ethics: Australian Early Childhood Association
Kinsella, R (2007) Greening Services: Practical Sustainability. Australian Early Childhood Association
Community Childcare Cooperative
Early Childhood Environmental Network – www.eceen.org.au
Smallgreensteps.org.au

Implementation:

The Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor will:

- Ensure the service is a member of the NSW Early Childhood Environmental Education Network (ECEEN) to liaise with other education and care services and to keep up to date on practices and ideas for sustainability
- 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
- Aim to purchase equipment that is eco-friendly, natural products where possible and reduce the amount of plastic and disposable equipment selected and purchased
- Apply for grants that will support the sustainability of our service

Educators will:

- Include recycling as part of everyday practice. Recycling bins will be provided in each classroom and office
- Role model sustainable practices
- Take part in supporting and promoting Nude Food Week each year
- Discuss sustainable practices and how they can contribute to the care of the environment with children and families as part of our educational programs
- Provide information to families on sustainable practices implemented at our service and encourage the application of these practices in the home environment
- Share ideas with other educators, children and families. This can be done at staff meetings, parent meetings, in newsletters and during conversations
- Use a worm farm or composting bin to reduce food waste
- Discuss with children which food scraps the worms will eat and those that can be used for composting
- Involve the children in maintaining the worm farm and compost
- Ensure the concept 'reduce, reuse, recycle' is embedded in everyday practice
- Organise incursions to educate the children and staff on sustainable practices
- Attend inservices to promote sustainability in our service

<p>Review:</p>

This policy is available in other languages upon request.

This policy is the intellectual property of Maryland Care & Early Education and is created with consultation of educators and families attending the Service.

Reviewed: December 2015

Next review: December 2017