

Policy Statement

This policy acts to ensure that:

- Our service promotes sustainable practices within the service environment, and in the wider community through fostering in children respect and care for their environment

Explanation

Learning about sustainability starts with everyday practice. We believe environmentally sustainable practices 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 to ensure a sustainable future for our children.

Goals

- Ensure the service takes an active role in caring for its environment, and contributes to a sustainable future
- Support children to become socially responsible and show respect for the environment
- Promote the role of Educators who encourage children as active participants for sustainability, influencing the quality of life now, and for future generations

Roles and Responsibilities

Approved Provider & Coordinators/Nominated Supervisors

- Seek out opportunities to include sustainable practices within the service, including the promotion of the concepts “reduce, re-use and recycle”, and the purchasing of sustainable resources and equipment
- Provide Educators with information and ideas about sustainable practices, and how to embed them into their daily program
- Provide information and ideas about sustainable practices to families
- Work with the local community to provide consistent messaging and practices around sustainability within our own service

Educators

- Respect the environment in which we live and work diligently towards a sustainable future for our children
- Foster children’s capacity to understand and respect the natural environment and the interdependence between people, plants, animals and the land

Policy Created
February 2016

Policy Last Updated
August 2022

Policy Review Date
August 2024

- Seek out opportunities to include sustainable practices within their service including the promotion of the concepts “reduce, re-use and recycle”, and the purchasing of sustainable resources and equipment
- Encourage children to develop respect, understanding and enjoyment of the natural environment
- Support children in connecting with and caring for the natural environment
- Model sustainable practices, including water and energy conservation as this encourages children to develop positive attitudes and values in caring for their natural environment
- Promote an awareness of environmentally sustainable practices, including ways to reduce, re-use and recycle
- Involve children in environmentally sustainable practices
- Assist children to understand the world around them, including ecology, where food comes from, global and local environmental and social issues appropriate to their age
- Help children to connect with nature, and work towards becoming more environmentally sustainable by incorporating environmental education and practices with play-based learning experiences
- Wherever possible implement safe and sustainable cleaning practices
- Involve parents and the wider community in educating children about sustainable practices
- Utilise resources found in the wider community to promote sustainable practices
- Work with the school community to provide consistent messaging and practices around sustainability

LINKS TO:

► **Education & Care Services National Law**

→ **Education & Care Services National Regulations:** 74, 75, 168, 170

→ **National Quality Standards/Elements:** 1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 6, 7

→ **Child Safe Standards:** 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10

Continual Monitoring and Improvement

Continual improvement and monitoring will occur in the following ways:

- Incidental and planned consultation with families
- Approved Provider and Coordinators accessing current relevant information
- Approved Provider, Coordinators and Educators accessing current and relevant training
- Internal evaluation of incidences and the improvement of systems

SOURCES

- [Education and Care Services National Regulations](#) - December 2021
- [Education and care Services National Law](#) - January 2022
- [Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations](#) - October 2017
- [Guide to the National Quality Standards](#) - January 2020
- [Implementing the Child Safe Standards: A Guide for Early Education and Outside School Hours Care Services](#), NSW Department of Education, 2021
- [A Guide to the Child Safe Standards](#), NSW Office of the Children's Guardian, 2020
- [ACECQA – FDC Approved Provider compliance responsibilities](#) – October 2017
- [Be You](#)
- ECA, "Greening Services: Practical Sustainability", Rachael Kinsella, 2007
- Environmental Education Services, "Climbing the Little Green Steps", Mia Hughes, 2007

LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES:

- Child-Safe Environment
- Complaints Handling
- Curriculum
- Interactions with Children
- SunSmart
- Waters Safety