

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
- Recognise that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have looked after Country for the past 60, 000 years and have rich sustainable practices
- Support children to become socially responsible and show respect for the environment
- Promote children's awareness of the environment through daily practices, resources and interactions
- Embed sustainable practices that encompass environmental, social and economic domains
- 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

- Consider current research and strategies, participate in environmental education to keep up to date on practices and ideas for sustainability for 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

Policy Created
February 2016

Policy Last Updated
March 2024

Policy Review Date
March 2026

- Seek out opportunities to include sustainable practices within the service, including the promotion of the concepts sustainability with the purchasing of sustainable resources and equipment
- Promote the 7R's of sustainability within the service reduce, reuse, recycle, respect, repair, reflect and refuse as part of economic sustainability
- 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
- Recognise that sustainable practices are about caring for and connecting with Country

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
- Seek out opportunities to include sustainable practices within the service, including the promotion of the concepts sustainability with the purchasing of sustainable resources and equipment
- Recognise and promote that sustainability spans environmental, economic and social dimensions
- Promote the 7R's of sustainability within the service reduce, reuse, recycle, respect, repair, reflect and refuse as part of economic sustainability
- Encourage children to develop respect, understanding and enjoyment of the natural environment
- Support children in connecting with and caring for Country
- 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

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

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

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](#)
- [Education and care Services National Law](#)
- [Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations](#)
- Guide to the National Quality Standards
- [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
- My Time Our Place
- The Early Years Learning Framework

LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES:

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