



Sustainability and Environmental Purpose Statement

Aim

As an education and care community, we can encourage and increase awareness of environmental responsibilities and implement practices that contribute to a sustainable future. Children can be supported to become environmentally responsible and show respect for the environment. Environmentally sustainable practices should be embedded into the operations of the education and care service and involve educators, children, and families to be successful.

Legislative Requirements

National Quality Framework – National law and Regulations Act 2011

Guide to the National Quality Standard (3) ACECQA (2011)

Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Energy Efficiency Opportunities Act 2006

Australian Workplace Safety Standards Act 2005

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012

Work Health and Safety (SafeWork SA) Act 2012

GOALS – What are we going to do?

At Kurralta Park Community Kindergarten, we ensure the environment is safe, clean, and well maintained. Children's awareness of the environment is promoted through daily practices, resources, and interactions. Sustainable practices are supported within the education and care service. Educators, children, and families are encouraged to become advocates for a sustainable future. Children do not enter the kindergarten until the play environments have been checked and deemed safe.

STRATEGIES – How will it be done?

We will:

- Ensure the service meets Government Legislation and Curriculum goals to remain up to date on practices and ideals 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.
- Educators make sustainable practices a part of the daily routine.

These include:

Recycling – Red/black bin – landfill, Green bin – organic waste, Yellow bin – recycling.

Gardening

Energy conservation

Water conservation

Sustainable equipment purchases (where possible)

Promotion of natural and recyclable resources incorporated in the centre's activities

Educators:

- Include recycling as part of everyday practice at the education and care service. Recycling containers are 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. For example, introducing nude food lunch boxes at orientation.
- Support the children to understand sustainable practices 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 implemented at parent meetings, through emails, newsletters, and conversations.
- Role model energy and water conservation practices, turning off air-conditioning when a room is not in use and emptying water play containers on to garden areas. We conserve electricity by using part lighting indoors.
- 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. Educators 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, and eco-friendly choices. Educators, children, families, and the wider community will learn together and embrace environmentally friendly practices.

Sources

- Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water –

www.environment.gov.au

Links to Education and Care Services National Regulations, regulation 157

Links to National Quality Standards/Elements” 3.2.3, 6.2.3

Links to the Australian Curriculum cross curriculum – sustainability

Links to the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia – Outcome

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