

E-8 Environmental Sustainability

National Quality Standards (NQS)

1.1	The educational program enhances each child’s learning and development.
1.1.1	Curriculum decision making contributes to each child’s learning and development outcomes in relation to their identity, connection with community, wellbeing, confidence as learners and effectiveness as communicators.
1.1.3	All aspects of the program, including routines, are organised in ways that maximise opportunities for each child’s learning.
1.2.3	Each child's agency is promoted, enabling them to make choices and decisions that influence events and their world.
1.3.2	Critical reflection on children’s learning and development, both as individuals and in groups, drives program planning and implementation.
1.3.3	Families are informed about the program and their child's progress.
3.2.2	Resources, materials, and equipment allow for multiple uses, are sufficient in number and enable every child to engage in play-based learning
3.2.3	The service cares for the environment and supports children to become environmentally responsible.
4.2.2	Professional standards guide practice, interactions, and relationships
7.1.1	A statement of philosophy guides all aspects of the service’s operations
7.2.1	There is an effective self-assessment and quality improvement process in place

Education and Care Services National Regulations

Reg. 73	Educational program
Reg. 113	Outdoor space—natural environment
Reg. 168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures

My Time, Our Place

2.4	Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment
4.3	Children transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another
4.4	Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment

Policy Statement

We aim to increase the awareness of environmental responsibility for children, staff and families. We aim to make our practices eco-friendly and involve all children, families and staff so that we are successful in reducing our environmental impact. Sustainability is embedded in both our philosophy and program.

Related Policies

- Daily Routines Policy
- Indoor and Outdoor Environment Policy
- Interactions with Children Policy
- Programming Policy

Procedure

Children, families and staff will share and engage in eco-friendly practices to encourage children and their families to develop an awareness of the need to protect the planet and it's future for the generations to come.

The service will make the following part of the daily routine:

- Recycling
- Water Conservation
- Energy Conservation
- Gardening
- Purchasing sustainable equipment
- Using recycled material for craft
- Sustainability to be included in newsletters
- Sustainability to be an item on meeting agendas and relate to the Quality Improvement Plan
- Saving leftover water to place in the garden.
- Turn off taps, light switches etc.

The service will use the following strategies to ensure sustainable practices are embedded in the daily practice:

- Review procedures and policies regularly to ensure there is an underlying focus on sustainable practices.
- Reduce paper by considering electronic newsletters, invoices, enrolment records etc.
- Keep up to date with local council and Government departments regarding information on sustainable practices in the local community. Look for grants that allow the service to improve water and energy conservation.
- Staff to role model good sustainable practices.
- Use recycled materials as containers instead of using new plastic containers.
- Encourage children to recycle paper. Put a recycle container on the craft table to encourage them to use it.
- Sustainability will be continuously included in the program. Discuss it with the children and the families. Ask the children and the families to come up with some ideas to improve the sustainability of the service.
- Get the children to be in charge of taking responsibility for sustainable practices such as recycling, gardening, water usage etc.



- Maintaining a vegetable garden. Discuss with the children how it all works and why we should do this.
- Reduce the amount of plastic and disposable equipment at the service and aim to purchase materials made from natural fibres.
- Promote the motto “Reduce, re-use and recycle” via posters etc. and make it a natural process for all concerned.
- Provide information to families about how they can help their children learn about sustainability and what they can do at home, as well as at the service.

Sources

- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- Framework for School-Age Care in Australia – My Time, Our Place
- National Quality Standard – Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority
- Network of Community Activities Policy – Environmental Sustainability Sample Policy

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Version Control			
Version	Changes Made	Initiated By	Director Sign-off
v.2.202209	- Updated NQS	Staff	
v.1.201906	- Separate Policy created	Staff	