



Armidale and District Family Day Care

Environmental Sustainability Policy

Aim: We need to envisage environmental sustainability as a holistic approach in all aspects of the Armidale and District Family Daycare service. We need to develop Staff's, Educator's, Parent's and Children's awareness of environmental sustainability so that they are able to think and act in ways to meet their immediate needs, without jeopardising future generations to meet their own needs.

Preamble: As educators of the communities of the future, our children, it is our responsibility to instil ideals and knowledge relating to environmental sustainability in ways that will ensure our environment is valued now and well into the future. Educators have a responsibility to make education for sustainability part of everyday practise, a holistic approach that integrates all aspects of sustainability into our service. Children need to feel a part of the natural world in order for them to appreciate and take joy from it.

Procedure:

- Coordination unit is to develop an environmental sustainability management plan outlining goals, practises and outcomes. This is to be reviewed at staff meetings regularly. This plan is to be developed in consultation with families, children, staff and educators.
- Appliances are to be turned off when not in use.
- Lights are to be turned off when not in use.
- Computers are to be put into lower power state when not in use.
- When purchasing new appliances, consideration is given to energy rating, and where affordable, choose the appliance with the higher environmental performance.
- Heating is limited to necessary areas only and heaters are switched off when no longer necessary.
- Where possible correspondence is to be emailed to educators and families rather than copying onto paper.
- Notes and newsletters are to be photo copied double sided.
- Old documents are to be shredded and recycled or composted.
- Recycling bins are to be provided in offices.
- Cardboard boxes are to be squashed down and recycled.
- Recycling of garbage is to be sorted and placed into Council recycling bins
- Coordination unit is to liaise with Council to successfully implement environmental and recycling programs and inform educators of these programs.
- All efforts are made to conserve water.

- Conservation and recycling are to be incorporated into the program for the children.
- Recycled materials are used as part of dramatic play, exploration and for craft activities.
- Families are encouraged to provide environmentally sustainable lunchboxes ie limit convenience, pre-packaged foods and reusable containers are used.
- Natural play spaces are to be provided and experiences involving natural materials are part of the program.
- There is to be a balance between indoor and outdoor experiences.
- Children are to be involved in all aspects of conservation within the service.
- Coordination unit and educators are to engage in mutual support in promoting environmental sustainability.

Source:

National Quality Standard: Quality Area 3.2, 3.3.

Kinsella, R. 2007. Greening services: Practical Sustainability. Earlychildhood Australia. Volume 14 No 3

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