



Environmental Sustainability Policy (PE 3)

Policy Rationale

Cooks Hill Preschool nurtures children to become confident and inspired learners, who show care and respect for themselves and the world around them. Together we believe in a sustainable future, and support mindful discussion and practices, with a collaborative hands on approach. This includes recycling, energy and water wise awareness, caring for our garden and the creatures that co-exist with us.

Environmentally sustainable practices should be embedded into the operations of the Preschool and involve educators, children and families in order to be successful.

Strategies, Practices and Procedures

The Preschool will ensure the environment is safe, clean and well maintained. Children's awareness of the environment will be promoted through daily practices, resources and interactions. Sustainable practices will be encouraged, and Educators, children and families will be encouraged to become advocates for a sustainable future.

The Approved Provider & Nominated Supervisor will use best endeavours to;

- Ensure the service joins the NSW Early Childhood Environmental Education Network to liaise with other education and care services and keep up to date on practices and ideas 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.
- Support Educators to make sustainable practices a part of the daily routine. These include: » Recycling » Gardening » Energy conservation » Water conservation » Sustainable equipment purchases

Educators will use best endeavours to;

- Include recycling as part of everyday practice at the education and care service. Recycling containers will be provided throughout the service.
- Role model sustainable practices.

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- Discuss sustainable practices with the children and families as part of the services education and care curriculum.
- Provide information to families on sustainable practices that are implemented at the Preschool and encourage the application of these practices in the home environment.
- Share ideas between educators, children and families about sustainable ideas, implementation and resources.
- Use a worm farm to reduce food waste in the Preschool. Children will be encouraged to place food scraps into separate containers for use in the worm farm. Educators will discuss with the children and families which scraps, worms can eat. The children will be involved in maintaining the worm farm.
- Role model energy and water conservation practices of turning off lights and air-conditioning when a room is not in use, emptying water play containers onto garden areas.
- 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 Preschool. 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.

Links to Legislation & National Quality Standards

- Guide to the National Quality Standard (3) ACECQA (2011): 3.2, 6.1
- Policy adapted from CELA 2019
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

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