



Dubbo West Public School Preschool

Procedure: Environmental Sustainability

Links to relevant legislation:

Chapter 4: Operational Requirements

Regulations 92-96

Links to National Quality Standard:

Quality Area 3: Physical Environment

Links to EYLF:

Outcome 3: promote continuity of children's personal health and hygiene by sharing ownership of routines and schedules with children, families and the community.

Date to be reviewed:

July 2020

Introduction:

At preschool we aim to provide awareness and encourage environmental responsibilities in our centre practices. These practices need to be environmentally friendly involving our staff, children and families creating a successful unity.

Aims: 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 within the preschool. Educators, children and families will be encouraged to become advocates for a sustainable future.

Procedures:

Educators will make sustainable practices a part of the daily routine. These include:

- Recycling
- Gardening
- Energy conservation
- Water conservation
- Sustainable equipment purchases

Educators will:

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

- Discuss sustainable practices with the children and families as part of the preschool 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. This can be done at parent meetings, through emails, newsletters and conversations
- 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 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. They 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

Staff will be encouraged to discuss sustainable practices with the children as part of the centres curriculum framework. Staff will include recycling as part of the everyday practices at the Preschool. Recycling bins will provide storage encouraging staff to role model sustainable practices at the centre. The staff will use provided containers in their centre to reduce food waste. Children will be encouraged to place their food scraps into the containers for use in the worm farm. The staff will discuss with the children and families what worms can eat and what foods can be used to compost. The children will be involved in maintaining the worm farm.

Staff will model water and energy conservation practices, turning off lights, air- conditioners and computers when a room is not in use. Collect rain water to fill water buckets and watering cans containers as well as empty unused water into the gardens.

The staff will use government and local council departments as sources of information on sustainable practices used within the local community. The staff will liaise with the government and council departments for possible grants available to put in place energy and water conservation practices in the Preschool.

The centre will aim to purchase equipment that is eco- friendly where ever possible. The centre will reduce the amount of plastic and disposable equipment they purchase and select materials that are made of natural materials and fibres.

The staff and families will be encouraged to think about the centres practices and how the preschool can become more sustainable.