



THE CUBBYHOUSE

PRESCHOOL AND LONG DAY CARE

ABN: 64083942858

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Environmental Sustainability Policy

Introduction

It is important that sustainability is embraced as a 'whole service' approach, in which all stakeholders have a sense of ownership over the process.

Conducting an 'environmental audit' of sustainable practices that are already occurring at the service is a useful tool for developing a sustainability management plan. We will also consider conducting an audit yearly of the energy use, waste management, water consumption and chemical use.

Goals - What are we going to do?

Educators acknowledges the importance of integrating sustainability practises to help promote an environmentally conscious childcare centre and community. Children will learn life long practices in helping our planet to stay healthy for generations to come.

Strategies - How will it be done?

*implement behavioural change to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

- Use solar panels to collect energy for use throughout the day
- Turn off appliances, lights and computers when not in use (lights off only when will not affect safety of anyone using the area.)
- Dual flush toilets in all bathrooms and turning taps off after use to save water
- re-examine purchasing practices regularly to ensure we do not waste products/ resources.
- implement a recycling program
- re-examine waste management regularly
- review cleaning practices. For example, minimise the use of toxic chemicals

*Embed sustainable practices into the day to day programs and interactions of the service

- Teach children about recycle labels, symbols and signs.
- Managing food scraps by sending scraps home to families/ staff with chickens, pigs etc, using compost and a worm farm to reduce landfill.
- Recycling, rubbish and scrap buckets will be labeled with visual aids for children to be able to recognize what goes where. Eg chicken pictures for scraps, the recycling logo on recycling bins.
- Promote the importance of sustainability practices, which includes recycling, reusing and reducing rubbish. Where possible appropriate materials will be reused within the centre and within the program, eg to make new resources or add into art experiences.
- The centre shall be environmentally friendly by educators involving the children in environmentally friendly practices such as putting food scraps in the compost bin, ensuring that taps are turned off properly, turning off unused electrical items and lights, flattening cardboard boxes for recycling. Recycling paper and cardboard for use in our programming. Children will be encouraged to use water wisely, and learning about water conservation will be incorporated into the program through visits from the local water board. Learning about our natural environment and how to respect and care for it.



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- Educators can talk with younger children about what they are doing in simple ways, and as children develop they can also begin to discuss the reasons behind these practices, which helps to foster critical thinking skills. This will help to have sustainable practices embedded in our service.
- Use natural materials in program planning where possible
- Educate and encourage families to send children's snacks and lunches in reusable containers to reduce the centres waste
- We will arrange for Whizzy the Waterdrop to visit and educate all children when available. (Taree and Wingham council area)
- Maintain the centres edible garden to promote good environmental practices and to allow children to experience the links between growing and eating food. The children will be involved in the care of the gardens and daily interactions will extend their understanding of this area.
- Explore and discuss the life cycles of plants, insects and animals with the children

- communicate achievements with the local community and seek their input
- participate in conservation activities conducted by the local community

- developing a resource folder on the server for educators with media articles, research, books
- incorporating sustainability as a regular agenda item for educator meetings, Staff meetings will be utilised to discuss our practices and develop new plans/ ideas.
- We will provide educators with the necessary resources, education and support to enable them to confidently and effectively implement sustainable practices
- We will research grant funding opportunities which may be available to assist with developing and/or implementing some aspects of our early childhood sustainability education program.
- A sustainability officer will be appointed at each service to ensure the centre is on the right track in embedding sustainable practices into the programs and everyday life of the Cubbyhouse

Statutory legislation and considerations

National Quality Standards

QA1 - Educational program and practice

QA3 - Physical environment

QA6 - Collaborative partnerships with families and communities

Early Years Learning Framework

Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity

Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world

Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners

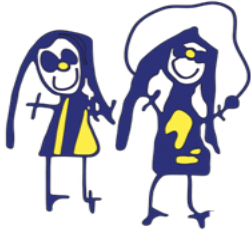
Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators

NSW Early Childhood Environmental Education Network (ECEEN):

Sources:

Environmental Education: Making it Mainstream – Julie Davis & Sue Elliott 2003

Environmental Sustainability Policy - Data, Cubbyhouse Originals, Cubbyhouse Manuals, Polices



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Little Green Steps -

<http://www.imagineeducation.com.au/files/CHC30113/ClimbLittleGreenSteps.pdf> (Accessed October 2015)

Cool Australia – <http://www.coolaustralia.org/> (Accessed October 2015)

Links to other policies

Communication and Interactions with Families Policy

Curriculum Development and Programming Policy

Excursions and Incursion Policy

Governance and Management Policy

Interactions with Children Policy

Nutrition Policy

Supervision of Children Policy

Water Safety Policy

Workplace Health and Safety Policy

Links to procedures – (Data, Cubbyhouse Originals, Cubbyhouse Manuals, Procedures)

Asbestos Management Plan

Bathroom cleaning procedure

Cleaning whole centre

Dangerous products storage

Enrolment and Orientation Procedures

Emails and mail

Kempsey fruit order

Kitchen procedures

Linen change over

Maintaining records

Ordering resources and taking deliveries

Programming guidelines

Staff development

Links to forms/ resources

Sustainability folder – data, cubbyhouse originals, resources

Developed 200 Reviewed and Modified August 2012, November 2013, October 2014, June 2015, October 2015