



# Baden Pattinson Kindergarten



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education

## Sustainability policy

At Baden Pattinson Kindergarten we believe that action for sustainability is vital for our children's future.

### Statement of Intent:

Educators and children at BPK work together to learn about and promote the sustainable use of resources and to develop and implement sustainable practices.

Through this policy our goals are to:

- take an active role in caring for our environment and contribute to a sustainable future whereby sustainable practices are embedded in our service operations
- support children to become environmentally responsible and show respect for the environment
- promote sustainable practices within the preschool community: children, parents, educators, governing council, cleaners and gardeners.

As Educators we will provide learning opportunities which:

- foster children's capacity to understand and respect the natural environment and the interdependence between people, plants, animals and the land
- provide spaces that promote the development of life skills, such as growing and preparing food, waste reduction, energy efficiency and recycling.

### Procedures used to achieve these goals:

Whilst recognising the interconnectedness of sustainable practices, we will adopt the following procedures in our daily routines:

#### Reducing Waste Procedures

##### 1. Purchasing and packaging

The Preschool purchases a significant amount of material each year including educational resources, art materials, furniture and foods.

When making purchasing decisions the following will be considered:

- Need for the item – consider the rationale for having the item, how it can be sourced? Can it be borrowed?
- Recycled content of item and its potential for recycling or end use / disposability
- Bulk buying of items to minimise cost & packaging
- Looking for "greener options" symbols in catalogues and other promotional material
- Sharing of resources with other educational centres, local childcare centre
- Community involvement - families are encouraged to, where possible, donate resources: boxes for construction, natural materials for creating
- Consider purchasing recycled paper eg newsprint
- Mending broken objects or having them fixed by members of the Vietnam Vets' shed adjacent.

##### 2. Recycling

- Rubbish bins are coded green, yellow and red, to match the kerbside bins and make it easier for children and adults to successfully manage recyclable materials
- Explicit teaching for children occurs, on a regular basis, to manage the bins eg beginning of each term and as required. BPK also has education sessions from Holdfast Bay Council and Wipe Out Waste.
- A range of recycled materials and resources are collected & used on a daily basis eg boxes for box construction, pipes and plastic bowls for use in the sandpit, telephones for dramatic play
- Collage trolley to include more recycled than purchased items
- Toners & printer cartridges to be recycled at Office works.

### 3. Organics

- Compost bins and worm farm are used to collect food scraps
- Smaller colour coded buckets for easy sorting at fruit/lunch times. A green bucket for fruit scraps (worm and compost), red for rubbish and a citrus bucket so that citrus peel doesn't contaminate the worm farm or compost.
- Where possible food scraps can be sent home to families with chickens, rabbits, guinea pigs
- Vegetable gardens at BPK and in the neighbouring Community garden promote food production and the importance of composting
- Ongoing learning may include the importance of life cycles (Monarch butterflies, worms, silkworms, chicken hatching & frogs) in our environment
- Children enjoy reflective times contemplating our tadpole pond in the garden.

### 4. Litter and waste minimisation

- Children and staff are encouraged to take food and related waste (non- organic) home to reinforce the need for less packaging
- Kindy involvement and regular educational visits from Holdfast Bay's waste education program officer.
- Families have access to newsletters (recycled paper) and other communications via electronic media eg emails and whiteboard notices.
- Non-recyclable items eg sandwich bags are sent home, we encourage nude food.

### 5. Conservation of energy

- Water conservation through installation of rain water tanks, timer taps in bathroom areas, promotion of half / full flush in the toilets, limited supply of water in sandpit play, activities that promote recycling water such as watering plants in the cooler part of the day to maximise absorption
- Energy efficiency - turning off lights, fans & heaters when not in use
- Constant liaising with the Holdfast Bay Council. BPK has successfully obtained several Greening Our Community grants which have assisted to fund our vegetable gardens, drip watering systems, rainwater tank, landscaping, the installation of solar panels and indoor blinds.

**BPK will continue to reflect on our practices and implement improvements. BPK celebrates Enviroweek each September when recycled products are used to create a feature at Kindy: the vertical garden from tennis ball containers 2014, the pineapple garden 2015 and the rainbow collage from plastic bottle tops 2016.**

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Reviewed September 2018

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