

Nature Play & Sustainability Policy

Rationale

A **natural** environment in a preschool is an environment which includes **natural** elements. ... Outdoor **play** has clear physical **benefits** for developing children including helping children to acquire gross motor skills, eye-hand coordination and helping to prevent obesity. **Sustainability** or **sustainable** development is development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Purpose

Staff at this Preschool aim to promote positive nature play experiences and sustainability practices for all children attending this site. We believe that children should have access to high quality nature play in a safe environment in order to promote the benefits of outdoor play and which encourages children to use their imagination as well as value and take care of the outdoor learning environment. We believe that children should practice sustainable practices in order to foster a deeper understanding of the world in which they live and to protect the environment from further pollution and damage.

How this will be achieved:

Staff Will:

- Attend professional development training to update their knowledge and skills
- Actively plan activities which use natural resources within the indoor and outdoor learning environments
- Actively promote physical play
- Utilise the outdoor spaces within the school grounds for resources and outdoor learning areas
- Promote the use of recycled materials, objects and loose parts for children's play
- Work with NRM to develop sustainable practices within the site
- Promote and develop a vegetable garden with children
- Work with children to enable them to develop their knowledge around recycling and composting practices
- Work with families and the wider community to collect loose parts
- Promote the use of 10c recycling centre for bottles at the site
- Use books and videos to engage children in discussions about sustainability

How families can support us:

- Talk to your child about recycling at home and encourage them to recycle and compost
- Bring clean recyclable containers and boxes to Preschool for children to use
- Bring 10c bottles to Preschool for recycling
- Talk to your child about nature, notice nature in the environment and talk about caring for the environment
- Take old toys, clothes etc. to the charity shop for recycling
- Visiting children's parks and other outdoor spaces
- Sharing books about nature and sustainability
- Contribute items for loose parts play

Date Approved: 17th May 2018

Date to be reviewed: May 2019