

Sustainability Policy

Aim

Our service aims to actively respect and care for our living and non- living environment. We aim to support children to learn about, promote and contribute to sustainable practices.

Implementation

Children develop positive attitudes and values about sustainable practices by engaging in learning experiences, joining in discussions that explore solutions to environmental issues, and watching adults model sustainable practices. Children learn to live interdependently with the environment.

Environmental Sustainability and our Curriculum

Our educators will educate children by providing a holistic, open ended curriculum which explores ideas and practices which promotes environmental sustainability and helps children understand the interdependence between people and the environment by:

- Children will be encouraged to develop a respect for and enjoyment of the environment and living things.
- Children will have opportunities to connect with nature through both spontaneous and planned playful learning experiences. They will have access to natural materials and spaces like wood, stone, sand, recycled materials, vegetable patch, garden, gardening tools and watering cans.
- Children's knowledge about the environment and sustainability will be acknowledged and built upon.
- Involving children in nature walks, education about plants and gardening and growing plants and flowers from seed.
- Children will develop an understanding about the food cycle by growing, harvesting and cooking food.
- Using information and resource kits on environmental issues or resources developed for early childhood services.
- Seeking guidance and support of groups with knowledge on sustainability and environmental issues to support the delivery of elements of our program.
- Celebrating and acknowledging environmental awareness through local or nationwide events examples include National Tree Day, National Recycling Week, Clean Up Australia Day and Walk to Work Day

The Role of Educators

Our educators will model sustainability by embedding sustainable practices into all aspects of site including:

- Role modelling sustainable actions to children.
- Respecting the environment and sustainability when buying new products and resources for the kindergarten.
- Be aware and share information about energy, water and waste with members of our community.
- Allow each child the opportunity to learn about how they can make a difference in the world.
- Using recycling materials for curriculum and learning activities where possible to minimise waste.
- Turning off equipment and lights when not in use.
- The use of the least hazardous cleaning substance appropriate for the situation, for example the use of natural cleaning products.
- Supporting our children to sustainably use the scraps at our site for composting, worm farms or for animal scraps.
- Maintaining a garden with the children.
- Using our taps keys to role model and support responsible use of water at our site.

Partnerships with Families and the Community

Our educators will develop collaborative partnerships with local community groups, government agencies and private companies to enhance and support childrens' learning about sustainable practices. We will actively promote and share relevant brochures and fact sheets on sustainable practices like recycling, saving water and power and green cleaning with our children and their families.

Families will be encouraged/invited to participate in local or nationwide environmental awareness events. Families will be encouraged to participate in decision making and information sharing about environmental sustainability through our community floor book, newsletters, notices, wall displays and meetings.

Links

NQS	EYLF
<p>QA3</p> <p>3.3 The service takes an active role in caring for its environment and contributes to a sustainable future.</p> <p>3.3.1 Sustainable practices are embedded in service operations</p> <p>3.3.2 Children are supported to become environmentally responsible and show respect for the environment.</p> <p>QA6</p> <p>6.1.2 Families have opportunities to be involved in the service and to contribute to service decisions.</p> <p>6.3 The service collaborates with other organisations and service providers to enhance children's learning and wellbeing.</p> <p>6.3.1 Links with relevant community and support agencies are established and maintained 6.3.4 The service builds relationships and engages with their local community.</p>	<p>OUTCOME 2</p> <p>Children are connected with and contribute to their world</p> <p>-Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment</p>

Sustainability management strategies

Kalangadoo Kindergarten have incorporated "Sustainability management strategies" into their sites Quality Improvement Plan as part of their "Improvement Planning" document- See document for details.

Sources

National Quality Standard

Early Years Learning Framework

Climbing the little green steps 2007: Gosford and Wyong Councils

Further Reading and resources

- Sydney Little Green Steps Teachers' Resource Kits Four amazing teachers' resource kits are available on CD. They contain hundreds of activities you can do with kids. Water, Waste, Nature and Energy Kits are all available.
- <http://www.gosford.nsw.gov.au/environment/education/documents/climbing-the-little-green-steps.pdf/view> NSW Early Childhood Environmental Education Network The Early Childhood Environmental Education Network (ECEEN) is a community of educators, families and children striving to create living and learning spaces within our communities that reflect and encourage sustainable practises.
- Your Local Council Give them a call! They have specialised Environment, Environmental Education, and Waste Education staff to help you with sustainability in your centre, hold workshops for staff, parents and possibly kids and answer any questions. They are also a great point of contact for local places of interest, local volunteer environment groups, special events and grants etc. in your area. Local Community Gardens and Bushcare Groups Look them up through your local council. They can be a great visit. Get someone who spends time restoring and protecting nature in your local area to talk to the kids, and show them what they do and why. Volunteers may be able to show kids how to plant.
- Local Indigenous Elders Contact through your local Land Council. A representative might be able to come to the centre and talk to the kids about Aboriginal culture, bush tucker, local heritage etc.
- "A Sustainability Resource Kit for Early Childhood Educators" (shellharbourkids.com.au/media/GMGC_ResourceKit_V2.pdf)