



Renmark
**Children's
Centre**
for Early Childhood
Development and Parenting

204 Eighteenth St
Renmark SA 5341
Tel: 85 86 60 63
Fax: 85 86 61 59
Email: dl.6541__leaders@schools.sa.edu.au
Website: www.childrenscentres.sa.edu.au



Environmental Sustainability Policy

Our Vision statement:

At Renmark Children's Centre we:

Work together with the community, families, children and staff towards a whole centre approach to sustainability resulting in the development of lifelong attitudes and practices.

Rationale:

Learning about sustainability starts with everyday practice. We believe environmentally sustainable practices should be embedded into the operations of the service.

Our service is committed to protecting our environment to ensure a sustainable future for our children. This involves educators, children and families working together to protect our environment to ensure a sustainable future for our children through continuous improvement we strive to improve every day.

To support this:

Management will:

- Support and actively require sustainable practices be adopted across the site
- Support the use of sustainable materials and resources when developing the site
- Provide a natural play space based on 'Nature Play' principles
- Purchase natural materials and equipment for children to use that foster an understanding of the principles of sustainability
- Promote the use of sustainable environmentally friendly resources e.g. solar panels, auto off taps, dual flush systems, rainwater tanks
- Provide environmental education for educators as part of our professional development program
- Promote the use of electronic communication reducing the need for paper

Educators will:

- Implement curriculum that focuses teaching and learning towards environmental sustainability
- Offer the children experiential learning through "hands on" experiences such as working the garden, caring for the animals, recycling scraps, (See Environmental Audit)
- Attempt to recycle % waste, e.g. shredding paper, fruit scraps to animals
- Promote a sense of belonging to the environment locally and globally
- Role model sustainable practices of reusing, recycling and reducing waste

Children will:

- Be sensitive to the natural environment and take action to preserve and maintain it
- Respect animals as equal inhabitants of our environment, e.g. guinea pigs, snails, frogs and other naturally occurring animals in our centre
- Identify environmental problems and propose innovative solutions
- Use recycling and reusing practices
- Be advocates to their families and model sustainable practices

Families will:

- Be informed on local and global issues
- Promote a culture of responsibility for the environment
- Support their children using sustainable practices
- Contribute to the centre's policies
- Role model practices to address unsustainable environmental issues

See also Renmark Children's Centre's:

- Sustainability practices for the whole site
- Sustainability Audit

Links:

National Quality Standards

Quality Area 3:

To ensure that the physical environment is safe, suitable and provides a rich and diverse range of experiences that promotes children's learning and development. The way that the environment is designed, equipped and organised determines the way that the space and resources are used and has the potential to maximise children's engagement and level of positive experience and inclusive relationships.

Element 3.3.1 *Sustainable practices are embedded in service operations.*

Element 3.3.2 *Children are supported to become environmentally responsible and show respect for the environment.*

Belonging, Being & Becoming – The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia

Outcome 2: *Children are connected with and contribute to their world - Children will become socially responsible and show respect for the environment.*

References:

National Quality Standards Framework (NQS) - ACECQA
The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia (EYLF)

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