



Settlers Farm Campus Kindergarten

Environmental Sustainability Policy

Rationale:

Settlers Farm Campus Kindergarten support children to explore the importance of sustainability in everyday practice- the concept that humans are dependent on, and impact on the natural world (Browett and Ashman, 2008) that's changing quickly. We are committed to protecting our environment to ensure a sustainable future for our children through developing children's respect for, and enjoyment of the natural environment and living things, whilst furthering their appreciation of its beauty (Hughes, Climbing the Little Green Steps, 2007).

Aims:

The Settlers Farm Campus Kindergarten Community:

- Promote respect for, and an appreciation of, the natural environment
- Foster understanding and respect for the natural environment, and the interdependence between people, plants, animals and the land
- Support the development of positive attitudes and values in line with sustainable practices
- Ensure that all educators and children engage in sustainable practices during the operation of the service.
- To comply with regulation 113 of the Education and Care Services National Regulation February 2018 – the outdoor space must allow children to explore and experience the natural environment.
- To comply with standards and elements of 3.2.1, and 3.2.3 of the National Quality Standards, 2018:
 - 3.2.1 Inclusive environment: Outdoor and indoor spaces are organised and adapted to support every child's participation and to engage every child in quality experiences in both built and natural environments.
 - 3.2.3 Environmentally responsible: The service cares for the environment and supports children to become environmentally responsible.

Strategies:

Encourage educators, families and children to engage in innovative practices and appreciate the wonder of the natural world while protecting the planet for future generations:

- Educators will make sustainable practices a part of the daily routine. These include:
 - Recycling
 - Reusing
 - Reducing
 - Gardening
 - Composting- worm farm and organics bin
 - Energy conservation
 - Water conservation (e.g. water saving taps, using rain water tank, discussions and teaching children to turn taps off after use)
 - Sustainable equipment purchases
- Include recycling as part of everyday practice at the kindergarten, e.g. recycling bottle tops, soft plastics, aluminium foil, paper, and yoghurt containers.
- Yellow recycling bins and red landfill bins are provided throughout the kindergarten.
- Role model sustainable practices.
- Encourage children to take home bread scraps and place in their green bins.
- Discuss sustainable practices with the children and families as part of the kindergarten curriculum.
- Provide information to families on sustainable practices that are implemented at the kindergarten and encourage the application of these practices in the home environment.

- Share ideas between educators, children and families about sustainable ideas, implementation and resources. This can be done at Governing Council meetings, through emails, newsletters, displays, the kindergarten's Facebook page, and conversations.
- Role model energy and water conservation practices of turning off lights and air-conditioning when a room is not in use, emptying water play containers onto garden areas, aim to purchase equipment that is eco-friendly where possible.
- Educators will reduce the amount of plastic and disposable equipment they purchase and select materials that are made of natural materials and fibres.
- Appropriately dispose of electronic waste.
- Seek to embed sustainable practices in the education and care service. The concepts of "reduce, re-use and recycle" will become part of everyday practice for both children and educators to build lifelong attitudes towards sustainable practices.
- Use local Council and Government departments as sources of information on sustainable practices used in the local community e.g. liaise with the Natural Resource Management to keep up to date on practices and ideas for sustainability.
- Access new information through the Wipe Out Waste (WOW) website <http://www.wow.sa.gov.au/> such as Professional Development, and current best practice strategies.
- Educators to access professional development with a focus on sustainable practices.
- Recycling show in term 1

Evaluation:

The Kindergarten reflects sustainable practices. Educators, children, families and the wider community will learn together and embrace environmentally friendly practices.

References:

Hughes, M. (2007) *Climbing the little green steps: How to promote sustainability within early childhood services in your local area*, Gosford and Wyong Council: www.gosford.nsw.gov.au and www.wyong.nsw.gov.au

Education and Care Services National Regulations, 2018

National Quality Standards, 2018, 3.2.1, 3.2.2 and 3.2.3

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