



Waikerie Children's Centre
16 Marks Tce
Waikerie SA 5330
Ph: 8541 2692 Fax: 8541 3126

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Waikerie Children's Centre will make every effort to incorporate environmental principles and practices into our early childhood educational setting. It will protect the environment and promote sustainable actions within the centre itself; ensuring the health of children, parents and staff. Within the broader world environment the centre will do its part to safeguard a clean and healthy world and embrace a whole centre approach to sustainability resulting in the development of lifelong attitudes and practices.

CHILDREN

Children need a clean and healthy environment in which to grow and learn.

The children's program will include education about environmental sustainability

- Themes in relation to environmental protection **and awareness** will be included in the children's activity program and in the day to day operation of the centre.
- Children will be included in keeping our centre clean and healthy.
- Children will be encouraged to "reduce, reuse, recycle" and dispose of rubbish in an environmentally friendly way. Products will be **reused or** recycled wherever possible.
- We will endeavour to use environmentally friendly products wherever possible.

CURRICULUM

As reflected in our philosophy, our centre has pledged a strong commitment to the Early Years Learning Framework – Belonging, Being, Becoming.

We believe that keeping animals, practicing recycling, and caring for our gardens are an excellent means to support the development of our curriculum (The Early Years Learning Framework - BBB) which has a strong focus on the natural environment as being a valuable setting for play based learning. Some examples of the learning happening on a daily basis include:

The children are learning and taking responsibility in day to day care involving:

- | | |
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| • feeding and watering – who eats what and how much | • essential hygiene practices – hand washing and wiping feet |
| • careful handling – being gentle and not hurting or scaring | • recycling paper and products- wastage, reuse, reduce |

Children are connected with and contribute to their world - Outcome 2, BBB.
Children have a strong sense of wellbeing - Outcome 3, BBB.

The children are learning about respect and empathy by:

- being kind and caring to the animals
- sharing and taking turns
- learning what the animals like and don't like
- giving consideration to what makes
- the animals feel safe
- caring for forestry and paper recycling

Children will have a strong sense of identity - Outcome 1, BBB.

Children are developing literacy and numeracy skills through:

- collecting, counting and weighing eggs
- cooking and following recipes
- following instructions
- asking and answering questions
- developing a wider specialised vocabulary
- developing conversation skills with adults and children
- taking photos and describing scenes
- Life cycles- growth of plants, time, animals

Children are confident and involved learners - Outcome 4, BBB.

Children are effective communicators - Outcome 5, BBB.

Children are developing their disposition for learning through:

- positive 'hands on' experiences
- following interests
- estimating, experimenting, problem solving, researching
- transferring and adapting what they have learned into different contexts

Children are confident and involved learners - Outcome 4, BBB.

Children are developing sound environmental understandings through:

- recycling food scraps and paper and reducing landfill waste as much as possible
- the reuse of paper into paper logs or animal housing
- being aware of and a part of plant life cycles and necessities for growth
- learning about the importance of insects, their housing and their impact on environment
- understanding basic climate changes and weather conditions
- learning about and engaging in responsible, sustainable practices
- encouraging families to become involved
- looking at food cycles e.g. scraps → eggs → cooking → eating → feeding scraps, etc

Children are connected with and contribute to their world - Outcome 2, BBB.

PARENTS/COMMUNITY

Information will be shared with parents about environmental protection and our program in the centre and how they can promote this at home.

- Parents will be encouraged to support the environmental friendly practices in the centre.
- Parents and the community will be encouraged to engage in recycling through the centre



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- Literature about environmental protection **and awareness** will be made available to parents from time to time.

STAFF

- Staff will encourage and practice environmental sustainability at all times and promote the practices that are used with language, demonstration and hands on learning.
- Staff will use environmentally friendly products at the centre where possible.
- Staff will support the centre to become involved in projects which promote environmental sustainability.
- Staff will engage in on-going learning about environmental sustainable practices and be supported.
- Staff will oversee the ongoing inclusion of sustainability based activities in line with the Early Years Learning Framework.
- Staff will support each other, children and families in sustainability practices.
- Staff will consider sustainability practices when undergoing risk assessments.
- Staff will promote achievements through displays, newsletters and to the wider community as opportunities arise.

MANAGEMENT

Management practices will support the centre to uphold society's concerns for environmental sustainability and encourage best practice.

SOURCED FROM:

Public and Environmental Health Act 1987 its regulations
Environmental Protection Act (SA) and regulations
DFE operational guidelines
Early Years Learning Framework

Updated August 2020
Review due August 2022