



## Sustainability Policy

### Relevant Legislation

Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010.

Education and Care Services National Regulations

National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care and School Age Care: Links to National Quality Standard 3.3; Elements: 3.3, 3.3.1, 3.3.2.

### Introduction

Sustainable practice in early childhood settings requires a holistic approach that integrates all aspects of sustainability into service operations. At Tathra Preschool we embrace a proactive and collaborative approach to encourage and increase awareness of environmental responsibilities and implement practices that minimise our impact on the environment and contribute to a sustainable future.

The educational program at Tathra preschool recognises that early childhood educators have an active and significant role to play to ensure children experience connections with the natural environment in meaningful ways which will ultimately promote action for sustainability. (Davis, J. M. and Elliott, S. 2004; p4).

### Policy Goals

At Tathra preschool we value a collaborative approach which aims to :

- ❖ Ensure environmentally sustainable practices ( which minimise our impact on the environment) are embedded in all aspects of the operations of our preschool
- ❖ Implement an educational program which encourages children to respect for the environment.
- ❖ Encourage educators, children and families to become advocates for a sustainable future

## Strategies-How will it be done?

### The Nominated Supervisor will:

- Actively source training opportunities which promote environmental sustainability as part of Tathra Preschool's staff professional development program.
- Ensure Tathra Preschool is member of the NSW Early Childhood Environmental Education Network to liaise with other education and care services and keep up to date on practices and ideas for sustainability.
- Encourage educators, families and children to engage in sustainable practices and appreciate the wonder of the natural world while protecting the planet for future generations.
- Provide leadership to ensure sustainable practices are a part of the daily routine. These include:
  - »» Waste Stream Reduction
  - »» Nature conservation (Gardening, worm farming, outdoor education program)
  - »» Energy conservation
  - »» Water conservation
  - »» Sustainable equipment purchases

### Educators will:

- Seek to embed sustainable practice 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. They will liaise with the Council and Government departments for possible grants available to put in place water and energy conservation practices in the education and care service. These may include water tanks, grey water systems, converting toilet cisterns to dual flush and converting to water saving taps

- Provide information to families on sustainable practices that are implemented at the preschool and encourage these practices in the home environment.
- Share ideas between educators, children and families about sustainable ideas, implementation and resources. This can be done at parent meetings, through emails, newsletters and conversations.
- Actively promote waste stream reduction and include waste stream reduction as part of everyday practice at the preschool. Waste stream sorting containers will be provided throughout the preschool.
- Actively promote nature conservation as an integral part of the educational program at Tathra preschool (gardening, worm farming, outdoor program and documentation).
- Actively promote and role model energy conservation practices of turning off lights and air-conditioning.
- Actively promote and role model water use reduction at hand washing taps and for water play and reusing water by emptying water play containers onto garden areas.
- Select and purchase equipment that is eco-friendly where possible. Specifically educators will reduce the amount of plastic and disposable equipment they purchase and select materials that are made of natural materials and fibres.

## Evaluation

- ✓ Sustainability provides a framework for practice and decision making in all aspects of our preschool.
- ✓ Purchasing reflects green cleaning' and eco-friendly choices.
- ✓ Educators, children, families and the wider community collaborate to embrace environmentally friendly practices.
- ✓ Regular assessment of energy and water bills is used to track usage.

## Procedures and Forms

- WH&S daily check list
- Maintenance schedule.
- Cleaning schedules
- Safe Storage of Dangerous Goods.
- Material Safety Data Sheets

## Links to other Policies

- Staff ,Student, Volunteer Induction Policy
- Enrolment and Orientation
- Interaction with Children Policy
- Guiding Children’s Behaviour Policy
- Excursions
- Staff Appraisal Policy
- Health Hygiene and Infection Control
- Accidents, Emergencies and First Aid
- Work Health and Safety Policy

## Sources and References

- Brayside Community Preschool Inc.
- Belonging, Being & Becoming – The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia: [www.deewr.gov.au/EarlyChildhood/Policy\\_Agenda/Quality/Pages/](http://www.deewr.gov.au/EarlyChildhood/Policy_Agenda/Quality/Pages/)
- Early Childhood Australia (unpublished final draft), ECA Environmental Sustainability Policy. Early Childhood Australia: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~eeec/policy.pdf>
- 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](http://www.gosford.nsw.gov.au)
- Davis, J. M. and Elliott, S. (2004) Mud pies and daisy chains: Connecting young children and nature. In *Every Child*, 10(4) p4
- Kidsafe NSW Inc – [www.kidsafensw.org.au](http://www.kidsafensw.org.au)
- Early Childhood Australia – [www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au](http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au)
- Early Childhood Environmental Education Network – [www.eceen.org.au](http://www.eceen.org.au)

## Date Adopted

26<sup>th</sup> November 2013

## Review Date

2017 Updated  
2021 Review or when procedure, practice or legislation changes.