



Environmental Sustainability Policy

Policy Statement

Sustainable practice in an early childhood setting requires a holistic approach that integrates all aspects of sustainability into preschool operations. At Tathra Preschool, we are committed to encouraging and promoting awareness of environmental responsibilities and implementing practices that contribute to a sustainable future. Children can be supported to become environmentally responsible and show respect for the environment. Environmentally sustainable practices should be embedded into the operations of the education and care service and involve educators, children, and families in order to be successful.

Policy Goals

Tathra Preschool will ensure the environment is safe, clean, and well maintained. Children's awareness of the environment will be promoted through daily practices, resources, and interactions. Sustainable practices will be encouraged within the preschool. Educators, children, and families will be encouraged to become advocates for a sustainable future.

Strategies: How will it be done?

The Approved Provider will:

- Consider current research and strategies, participate in an environmental education network and/or liaise with other education and care services to keep up to date on practices and ideas for sustainability at the service.

- 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.
- On induction families will be informed of our aim to be plastic free and encouraged to minimise single use plastic in lunch boxes.

Educators will:

- Educators will make sustainable practices a part of the daily routine. These include: » Composting » Recycling » Gardening » Energy conservation » Water conservation » Sustainable equipment purchases.
- Include recycling as part of everyday practice at Tathra Preschool. Recycling containers will be provided throughout the preschool.
- Role model sustainable practices.
- Discuss sustainable practices with the children and families as part of the preschool's education and care curriculum.
- Provide information to families on sustainable practices that are implemented at Tathra Preschool 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 parent meetings, through emails, newsletters, and conversations.
- Use a worm farm and composting bin to reduce food waste in the preschool. Children will be encouraged to place food scraps into separate containers for use in the worm farm the and composting bin. Educators will discuss with the children and families which scraps worms can eat and which foods can be composted. The children will be involved in maintaining the worm farm and compost.
- 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.
- Embed sustainable practice into everyday practice. 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.

Monitor, Evaluation and Review

This policy will be monitored to ensure compliance with legislative requirements and unless deemed necessary through the identification of practice gaps, the preschool will review this Policy every 3 years.

Families and staff are essential stakeholders in the policy review process and will be given opportunity and encouragement to be actively involved.

In accordance with R. 172 of the Education and Care Services National Regulations, the preschool will ensure that families of children enrolled at the preschool are notified at least 14 days before making any change to a policy or procedure that may have significant impact on the provision of education and care to any child enrolled at the preschool; a family’s ability to utilise the service; the fees charged or the way in which fees are collected.

Relevant Legislation

- Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010
- Education and Care Services National Regulations: 113, Schedule National
- Quality Standard ◁ National Quality Standards/ Elements: 3.2.3, 6.1.1

Guidelines, Standards and Frameworks

- Early Years Learning Framework: Outcome 2a; Children develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities and an understanding of the reciprocal rights and responsibilities necessary for active community participation.2b; Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment.

Sources and References

- Australian Association for Environmental Education - www.aeee.org.au
- Department of the Environment and Energy
<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/>
- Early Childhood Environmental Education Network www.eceen.org.au
- ACECQA - Guide to the NQF www.acecqa.gov.au/nqf/about/guide
- 2021, Community Early Learning Australia (CELA).

Links to other policies

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

Updated

April 2024

Review Date

2027 or when procedure,
practice or legislation changes.