



SECTION 2 MANAGEMENT POLICIES

2.9 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

INTRODUCTION

As an education and care community, we can encourage and increase awareness of environmental responsibilities and implement 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.

GOALS

At The Gums children's awareness of the environment will be promoted through daily practices, resources and interactions. Sustainable practices will be encouraged. Educators, children and families will be encouraged to become advocates for a sustainable future.

STRATEGIES

Educators will:

- Implement a Sustainability Action Plan and use this to guide current practice and future goals.
- Liaise with other education and care services / professionals and keep up to date on practices and ideas for sustainability.
- Make sustainable practices a part of the daily routine.
- Include recycling as part of everyday practice.
- Role model sustainable practices.
- Embed sustainable practices, into the curriculum.
- Provide information to families on sustainable practices that are implemented at The Gums 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.
- 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.
- 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.

EVALUATION

The Gums reflects sustainable practices, and eco-friendly choices. Educators, children, families, and the wider community will learn together and embrace environmentally friendly practices.

Statutory Legislation & Considerations

- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- Guide to the National Quality Standard (3) ACECQA (2011)
- Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- Energy Efficiency Opportunities Act 2006

Sources

- Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities – www.environment.gov.au
- Early Childhood Environmental Education Network – www.eceen.org.au

Links to Education and Care Services National Regulations, regulation 157

Links to National Quality Standards/Elements: 3.3.1, 3.3.2. 6.1.2