

Environmental and sustainability

Kangaroo Island Community Education – Parndana Preschool

Purpose

At Parndana Preschool, we value the environment and ensure that children develop a responsible and respectful attitude towards the outdoor environment.

We actively participate in caring for our environment and promote sustainable practices through educating and working with the children, families and wider community. As a community, we can create, encourage, and increase awareness of being environmental responsible. These practices need to be eco-friendly and involve staff, children and families to be successful.

Implementation

Parndana Preschool will promote children's awareness of the environment through daily practices within the routine and program, resources and interactions. We will encourage sustainable practices within the service and wider community- encourage staff, children and families to become environmental warriors.

Focus and attention will be on:

- Using recyclable materials where possible.
- Encouraging children to use half flush on the toilets and to be water conscious.
- Encouraging children to recycle paper and rubbish.
- Talking with the children about electricity and encouraging them to turn off lights.
- Educating children and having them participate in 'garden to plate' activities i.e. seed sprouting, weeding, vegetable gardens, cooking amongst other activities.
- Educating children in how to care for animals and letting them actively participate in caring for them.
- Educating children about the importance of protecting and respecting the environment.
- Encouraging children to create inquiries and investigations into living things such as local wildlife.

Our Educators will role model and promote sustainability by:

- Using natural resources where possible.
- Promoting awareness of the environment such as healthy eating, gardening, minimising waste, recycling and reducing water and energy consumption.

- Assist children in developing an understanding and respect for the environment and encourage critical thinking.
- Working with children, guests and families to support our local environments by working with local groups such as landscapes and the Natural Resource board.

Role modelling practices that encourage sustainability through the 7 R's of sustainability- recycling, reducing, reusing, respecting, repairing, refusing. Educators encourage children to be water conscious and monitor electricity usage, this includes:

- Educators, educating children about caring for our environment.
- Recycling water from water play into the gardens.
- Asking families to bring in recyclable items to use for arts and craft.
- Encouraging 'nude food' in lunchboxes to reduce waste.
- Collecting food scraps to feed to the chickens.

Utilising environmentally friendly products (where possible). Educators will support children to reduce water wastage by using tap timers and hand pumps for water play.

Recycling is as part of the everyday practices at Parndana Preschool. Recycling bins will be provided throughout the environment to encourage Educators to role model sustainable practices.

Educators will discuss sustainable practices with the children as part of the Preschool's curriculum and will be evident in the program eg. 7 R's of sustainability, sustainability warriors. Idea sharing will be encouraged between the staff, children and families sustainable ideas, implementation and resources. This can be done at parent meetings, through emails, seesaw, newsletters and conversations.

Sustainability at the beach is an important part of our program- each visit we have an environmental focus to embed sustainability practises in a real process in our community. Educators teach children about the impacts of marine litter and how picking up rubbish or 3 for the sea can reduce the amount of marine litter. Educators use the 'Take only photos, leave only footprints' mantra which reinforces the important message of caring for the environment.

Educators will use the Council and Government departments as sources of information on sustainable practices used in the local community. These departments are often invited in to discuss and support children's sustainability inquiries.

Educators use the 7's of sustainability throughout the term at group times, snack times and discussions during the day. Families are encouraged to bring in recycled items for craft, use 'nude food' lunchboxes, reflect on sustainability in the home and included in sustainability ideas.

Policy created: Aug Policy reviewed:

Endorsed by Alex Smith