

Sustainability Strategy



Policy Objective

To support the implementation of sustainable methods throughout Hawthorn Child Care Centre.

Implementation

We believe that sustainability is a fundamental lesson for all children to learn as they grow and make their mark on the world. We are committed to adopting sustainable methods for our day to day management of the service.

- Water saving taps are used throughout high traffic areas within the Centre
- Timer controlled taps are used within the children's bathrooms
- Half flush conversions are implemented on all toilets. Educators will educate and encourage the children to use them effectively.
- Water and milk left over from mealtimes is used to water the Centre's gardens. Educators will support the children to participate in this activity
- Appropriate compostable food waste from children's morning tea is placed in the Centre's compost bin. Educators will support the children to participate in this activity.
- Food scraps are placed into biodegradable bags and placed into the green bins for council collection.
- Recycling bins (organic and mixed recycling) are used throughout room in the Centre. Educators will encourage the children to participate in recycling their rubbish.
- Lights are turned off when not in use.
- Energy efficient light globes are used throughout the Centre.
- Electrical equipment is switched off when not in use and at the end of the day.
- The Centre's laundry is line dried whenever possible.
- Washing is consolidated to save energy and water use.
- Efficient uses of heating and cooling systems are applied throughout the Centre.
- Refillable ink cartridges are utilised in printers to save on land fill.
- We have a Planet Ark ink cartridge recycling box on site.
- Whenever possible we use double sided printing to reduce the amount of paper we use.
- We use recycled printing paper and ask families to donate used paper for drawing and craft.
- Materials such as scrap paper, card and boxes are reused for activities. Families are encouraged to donate their recycled goods, where appropriate, for use by the children.
- Automatic portion-controlled paper towel is used in the Jacaranda and Peppercorn bathroom to try and limit paper wastage. Children in the Banksia room are educated and supported to use one piece of paper towel when drying their hands.
- Children aged between 2 and 6 supply their own drink bottles, thus saving on using the dishwasher more frequently throughout the day to wash cups.
- An industrial dishwasher is in use within the kitchen to save on power and water usage.
- Environmental friendly products are used wherever possible.
- Educators use songs, stories and rhymes to highlight environmental issues.
- Two charity bins are located on the premises to encourage families to donate goods rather than throw them away.
- Families are provided with up to date information about sustainable living via the Skoolbag app.

- The SeeSaw and Skoolbag apps are used where possible to send home daily information to parents rather than printing information.
- The Centre is in the process of installing solar panels to reduce the amount of electricity used by the Centre, reducing the environmental impacts of electricity use.
- The garden spaces in the outdoor areas of the Centre are used to grow herbs, fruits, and vegetables which are then used in cooking the Centre meals. Children are supported to take part in the planting and care of the produce, providing an opportunity to learn about life cycles and our role in caring for the environment, as well as healthy eating.
- Indoor plants are in place across the Centre. Children are supported to take part in the care of the plants, allowing them to learn about their role in caring for the environment.
- Animals are hired from the Living Eggs company and the Nature Education Centre and placed in rooms to support the children's understanding of life cycles, and provide an opportunity to develop skills around the care of animals.
- A worm farm is in place in the Under-2 yard. The worm farm is cared for by the children with support from educators, and the output of the worm farm is used to fertilize the garden in the Gumnut/Peppercorn yard.
- Families are encouraged to share excess produce from their gardens with other families at the Centre to support a reduction in food waste.
- The Centre has put in place a program through which families are able to drop off recyclable products marked with "10c refund at collection depots when sold in SA" at the Centre. These goods are then taken to the recycling depot and any money earned is donated to charity.
- The Centre has put in place a Street Library, allowing families and members of the wider community to borrow or donate books, promoting the reuse of no longer wanted books and reducing landfill from books placed in the rubbish.

Changes to Existing Policy

The title of the policy was changed. The objective of the policy was changed. Email was changed to Skoolbag app. The use of one piece of paper towel in the Banksia room was added. Additional points on the Centre's sustainable practices were added.

Regulations

National Quality Standards 3

Education and Care Services National Regulations

Sources

National Quality Standards

Planet Ark

Review Date: June 2018

Next Review Date: June 2019