

# JUNEE PRESCHOOL POLICIES

## **Environmental Sustainability** *Quality Area 3: Physical Environment*

### **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 / What are we going to do?**

The education and care service 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 education and care service. Educators, children and families will be encouraged to become advocates for a sustainable future.

### **Strategies / How will it be done?**

#### **The Approved Provider will:**

- ◀ Ensure the Preschool joins 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 innovative practices and appreciate the wonder of the natural world while protecting the planet for future generations.
- ◀ Educators will make sustainable practices a part of the daily routine. These include:
  - » Recycling
  - » Gardening
  - » Energy conservation
  - » Water conservation
  - » Sustainable equipment purchases

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### Educators will:

- ◁ Include recycling as part of everyday practice at the Preschool. Recycling containers will be provided throughout the service.
- ◁ Role model sustainable practices.
- ◁ Discuss sustainable practices with the children and families as part of the services education and care curriculum.
- ◁ Provide information to families on sustainable practices that are implemented at the 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 or composting bin to reduce food waste in the education and care service. Children will be encouraged to place food scraps into separate containers for use in the worm farm or the 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. Educators will discuss with the children the purpose of our solar panels and how they produce energy for us to use.
- ◁ 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.

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### SOURCES

- ◁ NSW Government Office of Environment and Heritage – [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)
- ◁ Department of the Environment and Energy – [www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au)
- ◁ Early Childhood Environmental Education Network – [www.eceen.org.au](http://www.eceen.org.au)

### *Monitoring, 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 service will review this Policy every two 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 service will ensure that families of children enrolled at the service 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 service; a family's ability to utilise the service; the fees charged or the way in which fees are collected.*

### LINKS TO:

- ◁ Education and Care Services National Regulations: Schedule 1
- ◁ National Quality Standards 3