

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Carol Murray Children's Centre will promote sustainable practices and care for the environment. Educators, children and families will be encouraged to become advocates for a sustainable future.

For the Educators

- Educators will advocate and promote the children as being active citizens within their communities.
- Foster children's capacity to understand and respect the natural environment and the interdependence between people, plants, animals and the land.
- Reduce, Reuse and Recycle in their everyday practice.
- Use sustainable practices embedded in daily routines. These include:
 - **Resource Management/Recycling**
 - minimise waste from one-use throwaway materials
 - use the local facility of electronic waste and recycling
 - use fortnightly recycling service
 - **Energy**
 - turn off computers when not in use
 - use ceiling fans instead of air-conditioning when appropriate
 - turn lights off when not required
 - **Water**
 - set limits for water play
 - empty water play containers onto gardens
 - **Food**
 - compost food scraps
 - encourage children to bring reusable containers
 - **Purchases**
 - local products
 - energy and water efficient products
 - recycled products
 - **Pedagogy**
 - provide opportunities for the children to play outdoors and engage with a natural environment
 - children can develop transference of sustainability practices across the site
 - pedagogy fosters wonder and knowledge about the natural world
- Continually develop and implement strategies to support children to be environmentally responsible and to show respect for the environment.

- Educators will keep up to date on practices and ideas for sustainability.

For the Children

- Ensure our children are active and informed citizens in sustainability matters.
- Children will be given the opportunity to develop life skills through:
 - Maintaining the worm farm and compost
 - Harvesting and cooking foods grown in the vegetable garden, Bush Garden and fruit from the orchard.
 - Caring for the Centre pets
 - Maintaining the Butterfly Garden and Succulent Garden
 - Waste reduction
 - Recycling
- Children are supported in their knowledge of being part of our environment and community

Family and Community

- Children are seen as active citizens within the wider community
- Encourage families to support their children to adopt environmentally sustainable practices at both the service and at home
- Share ideas between educators, children and families about sustainable ideas, implementation and resources
- Become involved in community events such as Clean Up Australia Day, Harmony Day, NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Week
- Encourage families to bring their recyclables to the Centre for further use:
 - Damaged household appliances for loose parts
 - Clean recyclables for loose parts play
 - Clean recyclables for construction
- Encourage families to bring in cuttings of plants
- Visit the local primary school to explore their sustainable vegetable garden
- Source from local businesses second hand materials that can be used:
- **Sources**

Belonging, Being and Becoming – The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia:

www.deewr.gov.au/EarlyChildhood/Policy_Agenda/Quality/Pages/EarlyYearsLearningFramework.aspx#key documents

Community Child Care Co-operative (NSW)

Educators' Guide to the Early Years Framework for Australia

www.deewr.gov.au/EarlyChildhood/Policy_Agenda/Quality/Pages/EarlyYearsLearningFramework.aspx#key documents

Environmental Sustainability Policy

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Guide to the National Quality Standard, ACECQA www.acecqa.gov.au and <http://acecqa.gov.au/links-and-resources/-national-quality-framework-resources/>

Hughes, M. (2007) Climbing the Little Green Steps: How to promote sustainability within early childhood services in your local area, Gosford and Wyong Council: www.gosford.nsw.gov.au and www.wyong.nsw.gov.au