



## **SUSTAINABILITY POLICY**

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

Clovelly out of School Care is committed to providing children with experiences of the natural world which help them to understand their place within it and take responsible action to preserve it. Our environmental education will ensure children are given opportunities to connect with themselves, their community and their local environment through hands on, real world learning experiences that will enable them to connect with the rest of the world in a natural way and to develop into concerned and contributing citizens.

Our aim is to increase the awareness of environmental responsibility within the service as a whole and make our practices eco-friendly by involving all children, families and educators. Through the implementation of this policy, sustainable practices will be embedded in both our philosophy and program.

### **PROCEDURE**

#### **Practice**

- Children, families and educators to share and engage in eco-friendly practices, to aim to give children and their families an awareness of the need to protect the planet and its future for the generations to come.
- Centre to create and maintain a sustainability plan. Engage educators, children and family feedback to devise for the community.
- The service will make the following part of their daily routine:
  - Recycling.
  - Water Conservation.
  - Energy Conservation.
  - Gardening.
  - Purchasing sustainable equipment.
  - Using recycled material for craft.
  - Sustainability to be an item on meeting agendas and relate to the Quality Improvement Plan.
  - Maintaining a sustainability checklist.
  - Turn off taps, light switches etc.
- Review procedures and policies regularly to make them more sustainable.
- Reduce paper by sending electronic newsletters, email invoices, using digital rolls, whiteboards.
- Keep up to date with local council and Government departments regarding information on sustainable practices in the local community.
- Service to encourage sustainable practices such as earth hour and find opportunities to turn off lights or other electronic devices during an appropriate activity and period of time.



- Educators to role model good sustainable practices and ensure that children are experiencing and engaging in thinking about caring for the environment as part of everyday practice. Engaging in nature can help children to learn and develop in all areas and to grow into responsible, nurturing adults. As educators we must pass on knowledge and skills to help children develop practices to keep our planet clean, safe and in balance for future generations. Children will be continually educated on a life long journey of change in support of nurturing of the environment and eco-friendly practices.
- Educators will adopt creative approaches which provide children with play and hands on experiences related to nature and the natural world. Educators will have access to appropriate resources, training and equipment to educate children and promote sustainability in the service.
- COOSC will engage the services of Waverley council for a weekly recycling bin to be collected at a cost to the service.
- Encourage children to recycle paper. A paper recycling bin is located in the middle room for children to access.
- Sustainability should be embedded in the program. Discuss it with the children and the families. Ask the children and the families to come up with some ideas to improve the sustainability of the service.
- The Centre will display a yearly sustainability plan that staff and families will work towards and educate children through a variety of experiences.
- Establish and maintain a vegetable garden. Use school compost bin. Discuss with the children how it all works and why we need to do this.
- Reduce the amount of plastic and disposable equipment at the service and aim to purchase materials made from natural fibres.
- “Reduce, re-use and recycle” should be displayed at the service and it should be a natural process for all concerned.
- Email information to families about how they can help their children learn about sustainability and what they can do at home, as well as at the service.
- Set up a “Sustainability” book at the service with photos and ideas, which show the sustainability journey at the service. Children can be responsible for updating and adding to this book.

### Reflection

Educators will ensure they reflect on the progress of the service's sustainability, internalising and habituating the things that worked whilst correcting and modifying those that didn't. Educators should identify opportunities for new innovation and continuous improvement, taking back focus on opportunities as they arise.

### Professional Development

Educators will ensure that each year some sort of professional development based on nature pedagogy and environmental sustainability is incorporated into an educators training and this information shared with the team. This will be budgeted for communicated to management

### **RELEVANT DOCUMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority.

Guide to the National Quality Standard.

Family Handbook

Staff Handbook

Child safe environment policy

Eco OOSH in action, Network of Community Activities, 2005

Everyday Learning About Being Green, Everyday Learning Series, Vol 6 No 2, 2008. Early Childhood Australia

KU Children's Services factsheets – Environment

Inspiring Spaces for Young Children, Early Childhood Education



| Version number | Date effective | Description of amendment |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| 3              | May 2018       | Changes to wording       |
| 4              | March 2019     | Addition to procedure    |
| 5              | April 2022     | Change to procedure      |

**Considered and accepted by the Management Committee (representative) – S. Skelton**

**Considered and accepted by the staff (representative) – Katrina Thomas**