

Forest Hill Community Preschool Inc. Policies and Procedures

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 schedule 1
Link to National Quality Standards/Elements: 3.3, 3.3.1, 3.3.2, 6.1.2

INTRODUCTION:

This statement has been developed to provide an overview of the areas covered by this policy.

Promotion of healthy, sustainable environments where educators, children and families learn and share ideas about creating an environmentally friendly education and care service and this is a priority.

GOALS:

Forest Hill community Preschool will define areas of the environment through individual policies. These policies will incorporate practices that are achievable in the Preschool. These practices will aim to provide a cleaner healthier and more sustainable environment for educators, children and families.

STRATEGIES:

Forest Hill Community Preschool will:

Reduce waste, incorporate where possible *Green cleaning ideas* and create an eco-friendly environment.

Endeavour to equip the service with and implement water saving strategies, green cleaning and recycling. Where possible or applicable grants will be applied for to aid in the implementation of these effective environmental strategies.

Forest Hill Community Preschool defines the aims of this statement through specific environmental policies:

- *Animals in the Environment
- *The Indoor and Outdoor Environment
- *Cleaning and Maintaining the Environment
- *Smoke free Environment
- *Safe storage of Dangerous good
- *Environmental Sustainability

These policies will guide practices within Forest Hill Community Preschool and when possible Educators will keep up to date with the latest research on environmental education through journals, resource agencies and professional development and this information will be shared with families

EVALUATION

Forest Hill Community Preschool reflects sustainable practices, *Green cleaning* and eco –friendly choices. Educators, children families and the wider community learn together and embrace environmentally friendly practices.

We acknowledge Community Child Care Cooperative for the development of this policy

Date Adopted June 2014 Due for review when applicable or due to changes in regulation/legislation

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INTRODUCTION:

Forest Hill Community Preschool encourages and increases awareness of environmental responsibilities and implements practices that contribute to a sustainable future. Children are supported to become environmentally responsible and show respect for the environment (EYLF learning outcome 2e). Environmentally sustainable practices are embedded into the operation and program of the service and involve educators, children and families so they are successful.

GOALS:

Forest Hill Community Preschool 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 are encouraged within the service. Educators children and families will be encouraged to become advocates for a sustainable future

STRATEGIES

Forest Hill Community Preschool is a member of the NSW Early Childhood Environmental Education and will endeavor to network and to liaise with other services to keep up to date with practices and ideas for sustainability.

Encourage educators, families and children to engage in innovate 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 including using recycled materials for craft and recycling food scraps to the Preschool animals
- *Gardening including strawberry patch, herb garden and vegetable patch (using chook poo as fertilizer) and participating in National Tree Day
- *Energy conservation – turning off lights and power points when not in use- keeping heating to below 18 degrees- turning off lights whilst doing yoga in the afternoon.
- *Water conservation- turning off taps whilst soaping hands- using water from water tray to water lawn or plants- using watering system to a maximum of 3 days per week and set to water at night.
- *Sustainable equipment purchases

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Educators will:

- Include recycling as part of everyday practice. Recycling containers including food scraps will be used throughout the service.
- Role model sustainable practices
- Discuss sustainable practices with the children and families as part of the program
- Provide information to families on sustainable practices that are implemented in the service and encourage 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, newsletters and conversations
- To reduce food waste in the Preschool food scraps and food scraps from local café and home are used to feed the Preschool chook and animals. Children are encouraged to put food scraps in the specially marked containers. Educators will discuss with children and families which scraps the animals can eat and that the chook poo is good fertilizer to make the gardens grow. Children are taught caring for animals and correct handling and respect for animal as well as animal safety.
- Role model energy and water conservation practices of turning off lights and air conditioning when a room is not in use and turning off taps and emptying water play onto garden/lawn.
- Aim to purchase eco-friendly equipment, cleaning products 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 Preschool. The concept of reduce reuse 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.
- The management committee will be responsible to liaise with council and government departments for possible grants available to put in place water and energy conservation practices in the Preschool. These may include water tanks, solar heating, grey water systems, water saving taps.

EVALUATION

Forest Hill Community Preschool reflects sustainable practices and eco friendly choices.

Educators, children, families and the wider community will learn together and embrace environmentally friendly practices.

Sources: www.environment.nsw.gov.au www.environment.gov.au www.eceen.org.au

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