

The Kinder Garden



Environmental Sustainability Policy

Aim

The Kinder Garden Engadine is committed to persistent progress towards sustainability, and to be leaders in delivering an early childhood environment which advocates for the protection and preservation of our environment, through the continual development of our sustainable practices.

The Kinder Garden aims to develop sustainable practices within the education and care service and encourage educators/staff, children and families to adopt these practices as part of their daily routine, both here at the service and at home.

Legislative Requirements

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
National Quality Standards 2011

Who is affected by this policy?

Educators
Staff
Children
Families
Community

Implementation

The foundations of our sustainable practices and education will be identified through the development of a Sustainability Management Plan and Educational Program.

Educators, staff, families and children will work together in the development of this document and the implementation of environmentally sustainable practices in the service.

Our implementation of sustainable practices will remain flexible and dynamic, to allow for specific service needs and reflect best practice.

Our environmentally sustainable practices will be child-orientated and relevant to the local community and the service environment.

Information on environmentally sustainable programs and practices used at the service will be made available to families, via service displays, conversations, email, apps, website and/or newsletters, so that they can also be practiced at home and within the community.

Environmentally sustainable practices will be embedded within the service operations and consistently promoted in the everyday program, with children actively involved in being environmentally responsible.

Areas of interest to look at within the service include, but are not limited to, water usage, the use of chemicals in service operations, energy usage, recycling, sustainable equipment purchases, service surrounds, the use of plants and garden materials, worm farms and composting etc.

Areas to include in the program include, but are not limited to, looking at vegetables and herbs for use in cooking, plants and gardens and the benefit to the environment, worm farms or composting bins, the use of recycled materials, books/resources looking at environmental sustainability, discussions on the difference the children can make to their local environment, weather experiences, looking at the natural elements of service and surrounding environments, local plants and wildlife, discovering how the environment links together between humans, animals and plants, children's responsibilities to their immediate environment.

Educators and staff are to encourage and role model sustainable practices such as the recycling of materials or products as appropriate; turning off lights and airconditioning when they leave the room; being responsible with taps and running water etc

Further reading: The Early Years Learning Framework

The Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor will ensure that this policy is maintained and implemented at all times.

Sources

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
National Quality Standards 2011
The Early Years Learning Framework
ACECQA www.cecqa.gov.au

Review

The policy will be reviewed annually. Review will be conducted by management, employees, parents and any interested parties.

Reviewed: October 2016

Date for next review: October 2017