

# SHARE BEFORE, AFTER AND VACATION CARE.

## Environmental Sustainability

### **POLICY STATEMENT:**

**SHARE** aims to increase the awareness of environmental responsibility within the service. We aim to make our practices eco-friendly and involve all children, families and Educators so that we are successful. Sustainability is embedded in both our philosophy and program.

### **PROCEDURE:**

#### **a) Routines**

- 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.
- The Centre 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 included in newsletters
  - Sustainability to be an item on meeting agendas and relate to the Quality Improvement Plan
  - Maintaining a sustainability checklist
  - Saving leftover drinking water to place in the garden.
  - Turn off taps, light switches etc.
- Review procedures and policies regularly to make them more sustainable
- Reduce paper by considering electronic newsletters, invoices, enrolment records etc.
- Keep up to date with your local council and Government departments regarding information on sustainable practices in your local community. Look for grants that allow you to improve water and energy conservation.
- Educators to role model good sustainable practices.
- Use recycled materials as containers instead of using new plastic containers.
- Encourage children to recycle paper. Put a recycle container on the craft table to encourage them to use it. Decorate it-E.G. "Feed Me"
- 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 Centre.
- Get the children to be in charge of the Sustainability Checklist.
- Establish a garden, a worm farm and a 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 Centre and aim to purchase materials made from natural fibres.
- Promote the motto "Reduce, re-use and recycle" should be displayed at the Centre 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 Centre.
- Set up a “Sustainability” book at the Centre with photos and ideas, which show your sustainability journey at your Centre. Children can be responsible for updating and adding to this book.

**CONSIDERATIONS:**

Education and Care Services National Law & Regulations	National Quality Standards & Elements	Links to other Service Policies	Other Documentation/ Evidence
S168  R108, 110, 113	Standards 1.2, 3.2, 5.2  Elements 1.2.1, 1.2.3, 3.2.3, 5.2.1	- Providing a Child Safe Environment Policy - Interactions with Children Policy	My Time Our Place Parent Handbook Staff Handbook Sustainability book/checklist Meeting minutes

**ENDORSEMENT BY THE SERVICE:**

Approval date:    Date for Review: