Environmental and Sustainable Practice

Policy Statement

That the staff of Victor Harbor Community Kindergarten will provide a high quality, educational based early childhood program of activities and experiences which reflect and respond to children’s needs, strengths and interests. Children will be encouraged to develop a respect for and enjoyment of the natural environment and living things whist furthering their appreciation of beauty in its many forms. Environmental sustainable practices will be incorporated into everyday routine practices and in the learning experiences provided.

Procedures:

1. Staff will undertake professional development and professional reading which focus on promoting environmental sustainability.

2. Staff will help children connect with nature and work towards helping the Centre become more environmentally sustainable by incorporating environmental education and practices with play based experiences such as:
   * Promoting our worm farm
   * Highlighting our seasonal vegetable gardening
   * Highlighting our food scrap disposal system—e.g. composting, fruit scrap green bins for Animals—e.g. chickens, goats at staff homes and the worm farm.
   * Incorporating natural and/or recycled material into children’s learning areas and activities
   * Growing plants and flowers from seeds
   * Responsible recycling—promoting yellow bins and blue bins in the centre
   * Utilising outdoor environments and incorporating natural resources
   * Developing Teaching Resource kits and aids including picture books, posters, activity books on the topics of waste, water, wild life and biodiversity to communicate environmental messages to the children.

3. Staff will provide families with environmental sustainability displays, hints, articles and fact sheets which promote sustainability on such topics as green lunch, recycling, saving water and environmentally-friendly alternatives for cleaning purposes. Children will illustrate a number of news sheets to promote a particular aspect of sustainability and environmental awareness to their families through the year.
4. Staff will make attempts to celebrate aspects of environmental awareness events such as:

**Clean Up Australia Day**  Term One:
**National Composting week**- Term 2 Week 2, **World Environment Day** Term 2 -5th June and **World Ocean day** 8th June:
**National Tree Planting Day**- Term 3- 27th July Australia wide , **National Science Week**- Term 3 Week 4,
**National Recycling Week**- Term 4,Week 5, **Water week** - Term 4Week One

5. Staff will endeavour to equip the centre with and implement water saving strategies. Incorporate “green cleaning” by limiting chemical cleaners and using more environmentally friendly based products. Use recycling strategies for the centre’s waste materials and organic matter.

5. Staff will review latest information and teachings on environmental education through professional reading and training, sharing this information to enhance the children’s program and families' knowledge.

This policy is based on information from the references and sources listed below:
*NSW Department of Community Services (2002) NSW Curriculum Framework for Children's services- The Practice of relationships, Essential provisions for Children Services, Office of Child Care. NSW
*“Little Green Steps Environmental Program” (www.gosford.nsw.gov.au )11 August 2006

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APPROVED AND CHECKED BY:

AUTHORISED:

VHCK CENTRE DIRECTOR ___________________________ DATE:

GOVERNING COUNCIL REP. ___________________________ DATE