



Victor Harbor Community Kindergarten Environmental and Sustainability Policy

Issue 6

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Purpose

The staff at Victor Harbor Community Kindergarten will provide a high quality, educational based early childhood program of activities and experiences that reflect and respond to the children's needs, strengths and interests.

Children will be encouraged to develop a respect for and enjoyment of the natural beauty of all living things and environments, with sustainability practices being incorporated in everyday routines and in the learning experiences provided by the centre.

Procedures

1. Staff will help children connect with nature and work towards helping the centre become more environmentally sustainable.
2. Staff will incorporate environmental education and sustainability practices by using experiences such as:
 - a. Promoting and using the worm farm
 - b. Highlighting the seasonal vegetable garden
 - c. Highlighting the food scrap disposal system
 - d. Green bins for fruit scraps that are then taken home by the staff to give to their animals
 - e. Incorporating natural and/or recycled materials into the learning environment and educational activities
 - f. Growing plants and flowers from seed
 - g. Promoting responsible recycling in the centre with the use of yellow and blue bins
 - h. Utilising outdoor environments and incorporating natural resources
 - i. Developing teacher resource kits and aids, including picture books, posters and activity books.
 - j. Use activities books to communicate environmental messages to the children with topics including waste, water, wildlife and biodiversity
3. Staff will provide families with environmental sustainability displays, hints, articles and fact sheets that promote sustainability. Topics include green lunches, recycling, water saving and environmentally friendly alternatives to cleaning products.
4. Children will be encouraged to illustrate fact sheets to promote a particular aspect of sustainability and environmental awareness throughout the year.
5. Staff will attempt to celebrate environmental awareness events throughout the year. These include:
 - a. World Environment Day on the 5 June 2018.
 - b. World Ocean Day on the 8 June 2018.
 - c. National Tree Planting Day on the 27 July 2018
 - d. National Science Week in Term 4 Week 3
6. Staff will endeavor to equip the centre with and implement water saving strategies. These include:
 - a. Incorporate 'green' cleaning by limiting the use of chemical cleaners and using environmentally friendly products.
 - b. Use recycling strategies for the centre's waste materials and organic matter
 - c. Using rainwater for the garden, water course and water play
7. Staff will research the latest information and teachings on environmental education and share their findings with children and families.
8. Promoting the [Nature Play](#) website to families.

Resources

1. NSW Department of Community Services (2002) NSW Curriculum Framework for Children's Services – the Practice of Relationships, Essential Provisions for Children's Services, Office of Child Care NSW
2. Curtis, D and Carter, M (1996) Designs for Living and Learning – Transforming Early Childhood Environments. Redleaf Press, Saint Paul, MN
3. Early Childhood Environmental Education Network – Seeds for the Future Network News – www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au – 11 August 2006
4. Little Green Steps Environmental Program – www.gosford.nsw.gov.au – 11 August 2006

Approved and Checked By

Review 2019

Approved and Checked By:

Centre Director

.....Date

Governing Council Representative

.....Date