



Victor Harbor Community Kindergarten

QUALITY AREA 1: EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AND PRACTICE

QUALITY AREA 6: COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH FAMILIES and COMMUNITIES

Environmental and Sustainable Practices

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Purpose

The staff of Victor Harbor Community Kindergarten will endeavour to provide a high quality, educational based program which reflects upon the changing need in our environment to implement environmental awareness and sustainable practices. Children will be encouraged to develop a respect for and enjoyment of the natural environment and living things whilst furthering their appreciation of beauty in its many forms. Environmentally sustainable practices will be incorporated into everyday routine practices and in the learning experiences provided. Families will be supported and encouraged to participate in any environmental and recycling programs.

Site Responsibilities and procedures

1. 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 at staff homes
 - Incorporating natural and /or recycled material into children's learning areas and activities
 - Growing plants and flowers from seeds
 - Responsible recycling-promoting yellow and blue bins in the centre, as well as the worm farm and compost bin
 - Promote other recycling projects and encourage families to participate as well eg collecting bottle tops, toothpaste products, coffee pods, writing utensils
 - Utilising outdoor environments and incorporating natural resources
 - Developing Teaching Resource kits and aids including picture books, posters, and activity books on the topics of waste, water, wild life and biodiversity to communicate environmental messages to the children.
 - Throughout the year we will endeavor to invite a variety of community members to talk to the children and families about different environmental issues.
2. 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.
3. Staff will attempt to celebrate aspects of environmental awareness events throughout the year as part of our on-going program. Eg. World Environment Day- Term 2 -5th June, World Ocean Day- 8th June, National Tree Planting Day-Term 3- 30th July, National Science Week- Term 3, Week 4, Plastic free July.

4. Staff will endeavor 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. Use rainwater for the garden, and where appropriate for children’s water and mud play as long as this activity is supervised.
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. Utilizing the Nature Play Web site and promoting to families. Visit other centres for ideas.
6. Staff will arrange an excursion each year, if suitable, to walk to and along the nearby Inman bush track to observe nature – the trees, bush, river, birds and any other wildlife. We will also take rubbish bags to pick up rubbish we see along the way. On return we will reflect and discuss upon what we saw.

Sources

- 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
- Curtis, D and Carter, M (1996) Designs for Living and Learning – transforming Early child hood Environments, Redleaf Press, Saint Paul, MN
- Early Childhood Environmental Education Network (Seeds for the Future Network News) (www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au) 11 August 2006
- “Little Green Steps Environmental Program” (www.gosford.nsw.gov.au) 11 August 2006
- ‘Adopt a spot scheme’.
- www.coolaustralia.org
- Planet Ark Environmental Foundation - treeday.planetark.org
- ‘Dirtgirl’ videos

Review 2022 or as required

Approved and Checked By:

Centre Director

.....Date

Governing Council Representative

.....Date