



# CHILDREN'S SERVICES Environmental Sustainability Policy

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## 1. Introduction

**Environmental Sustainability** means making decisions and taking action in the interest of protecting our natural world. There is a particular emphasis put on preserving the capability of the environment to support human life as it is becoming increasingly evident of the impact we are having on the planet.

**Awareness** means increasing service users knowledge of the situation and what can be done to reduce our impact on the natural environment.

## 2. Scope

This Policy applies to all Children's Services operated by Coast Services Group Limited (a wholly owned subsidiary of Coast Community Connections LTD) and our employees. This applies to Early Childhood Programs, Occasional Care, Out Of School Hours Care and Vacation Care programs and services.

## 3. Policy

Coast Services Group Limited - Children's Services Educators will ensure that environmental sustainability is a priority in everyday service operations. We will endeavour to maintain an environmentally safe and clean indoor and outdoor space for service users.

All our Children's Service's and Educators will promote, encourage and support service users to increase their awareness of the impact we all have on the natural environment and what we can all do to contribute to a sustainable future. We will promote this through our daily practices, resources and interactions.

## 4. Procedures and Implementation

### The Approved Provider will -

- 5.1 Ensure the service joins the NSW Early Childhood Environmental Education Network in order to liaise with other education and care services to keep up to date on practices and share their ideas for environmentally sustainable practices.
- 5.2 Encourage Educators, families and children to engage in sustainable practices. They will endeavour to make information about our impact on the environment readily available so as to help service users increase their awareness of environmental issues and their appreciation of the natural world. This in turn will encourage service users to contribute to the protection of the planet for future generations.

## **5 Children's Services Educators will -**

- 5.1 Include recycling as a part of service operations. Appropriate sorting recycling containers will be provided throughout the service. Children are to be educated and reminded about what goes in each container.
- 5.2 Role model sustainable practices. Some ways that Educators can achieve this include proper waste sorting and recycling, demonstrating energy and water conservation practices by turning off lights and air-conditioning when a room is not in use and emptying water play containers onto garden area.
- 5.3 Make sustainable practice a discussion point with children and families as a part of the services education and care curriculum. Plan activities and interactions or discussions in the daily program to ensure environmental sustainability becomes embedded in-service operations.
- 5.4 Ensure information about the service's environmental practices is made available to families. Educators will encourage families to seek knowledge about our environmentally sustainable practices and implement some of these practices in their home environment.
- 5.5 Share ideas and information between Educators, children and families about sustainable practices and resources. Opportunities for communicating this include parent meetings, newsletters, emails, conversations and notices in the family collaboration area at the service.
- 5.6 Establish a worm farm or composting bin in order to reduce food waste in the service. Educators will encourage children to place appropriate food scraps into separate containers for use in the worm farm or composting bin. Educators will discuss with children and families which scraps the worms can and cannot eat and which foods can be composted. The children will be involved and feel responsible for maintaining the worm farm and compost.
- 5.7 Aim to purchase equipment and resources that are eco-friendly where possible. Educator should aim to reduce the amount of plastic and disposable equipment they purchase and try to select materials that are made of natural materials and fibres.
- 5.8 Aim to purchase cleaning materials that reflect on the service's environmental sustainability position. Where possible 'Green Cleaning' and eco-friendly choices should be considered when placing orders for cleaning resources such as spray and wipes or liquid detergent that have less of an impact on our environment and water ways.
- 5.9 Provide Learning opportunities for Children about the concept of 'Reduce, re-use and recycle' through the daily program. By making this a part of the services everyday practice both children and Educators will build a positive lifelong attitude towards sustainable practices.

## **6. Other related policies and procedures**

- Interactions with children policy
- Education and care Program policy
- Material Safety Data Sheets
- Children's Daily Program (E-Journal)