



SUSTAINABLE WORLD PROGRAM 2021

Environmental Awareness

MIRANDA

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

303 Port Hacking Rd, Miranda
2228



Our Approach

We are committed to promoting a sustainable future and facilitating a healthy community and environment through the introduction of sustainable practices to children. Our educators strive to embed sustainable practices into our programs, philosophy and everyday routines. This is important to ensure sustainability becomes second nature within our service, this also allows educators to role model everyday sustainable practices to the children so they can grow and learn within a healthy environment.

We believe that sustainable education and practice should be ever evolving with the children, the environment and the educator and that there are no “magic rules” to follow.

Within our program we are continuously reflecting upon our practices and the impact they are having on our world. We are always looking for new and innovative ways to ensure we are reducing waste, increasing biodiversity, being water wise, keeping energy levels down, incorporating nature play, implementing smarter shopping and creating sustainable food options.

What to Consider When Implementing Sustainability

Within our service we strive to involve the children in all our decision making in regards to sustainability, here are ideas to get started and become more involved in sustainable learning and practices.

1. Be a Role Model

- Put food scraps into a compost bin or worm farm
- Turn lights off as you leave a room
- Turn taps off properly
- Empty drink bottles to water plants at the end of the day
- Reuse the packing and cardboard from purchases for craft and play
- Involve children in flattening the cardboard you aren't using to put in the recycle bin
- Encourage an interest in the environment and outdoor discovery play

2. Be Resourceful

- Collect the junk mail from the letterbox to use for cutting experiences or to place in the recycling bin
- Dye own expired rice, pasta, cornflour, sand and craft sticks
- Wash and reuse small containers, plastic spoons, plates, trays and other recyclables for craft and play purposes

3. Be Waste Wise

- Have separate bins for regular rubbish, compost and recycling
- Make it an ongoing process to separate rubbish and compost from meal times, for example: muffin wrappers can go in the rubbish and banana peels can go in the compost
- Educate children on why we have different bins and how they can help reduce waste

4. Be a Green Thumb

- Plant seeds in garden beds, pots or even old shoes, teapots etc
- Add a compost bin or worm farm to the environment
- Mulch gardens to help conserve water and keep weeds at bay. Get the children involved in helping spread the mulch, creating a sense of responsibility within their environment.
- Create sensory herb and flower gardens, use the herbs in cooking activities or sensory experiences

5. Be Inventive

- Recycle and reuse everyday items to make toys, outdoor play equipment, craft materials and much more
- Make water paint using old dried up textas and pain brushes using sticks and greenery from the garden

6. Be a Green Cleaner

- Use earth friendly cleaning products, eucalyptus oils or tea tree oils
- Use colour coded microfibre cloths that can be washed and reused over and over rather than disposable cloths that need to be thrown out after a few uses
- Hot soapy water and sunshine cleans toys and soft furnishings just as well as all those bottles of chemicals do

7. Be a Smart Shopper

- Look at op shops for resources or asked for donated items that were initially going to be thrown away such as tyres from a car yard
- Make playdough instead of buying it already made as you can get a larger quantity and spread it further
- Collect items such as boxes and quality pre-loved toys from markets and garage sales

8. Be Water Wise

Water is a precious resource and we should help children understand this concept.

- Install a water tank, even if just a small one that the children can water the plants from
- Help children find ways to collect water when it rains and then use in different ways
- Provide child size watering cans
- Ensure children understand and know how to use a dual flush toilet system
- Install water saving taps and shower heads
- Recycle the water play – where possible
- Do activities that explain and show differences between tap and tank water
- Set up a system of names on child care bedding to prevent daily washing when children attend more than once a week
- Save the washers and other service washing until you have a full load to put on
- Involve children in air drying the washing rather than using a dryer

9. Be Nature Aware

- Look for and encourage small and large critters in your backyard. Plant plants that encourage native birds and butterflies, take photos and help children research more about the creatures big and small living in our area.
- Use things from the garden and outdoor spaces to incorporate into play and learning and craft. Flowers, leaves, rocks, twigs, branches, dirt, shells, grass and much more!
- Ensure children have access to collecting and using natural materials in their play. Find ways to bring the outdoors inside.

10. Be Prepared to Monitor and Measure Progress

- 'Show evidence' of sustainable practices and share this through daily/weekly reflections, newsletters, social media etc
- Reflect upon current practices with the children and implement new goals to continue
- Share sustainable achievements with families and the local community and ask for input to continue improving sustainable practices
- Get involved with the community

