

Early Years Services – QA3.6 Sustainability

TRIM Reference:	D15/35364	Due for Review:	16 January 2023
Responsible Officer:	Coordinator Early Years		

Purpose

This policy outlines Surf Coast Shire Council's commitment to:

- ensuring the overarching Council policies which have sustainability embedded and all related strategies are upheld throughout all Surf Coast Shire Council Early Years Services venues / Family Day Care (FDC) residences/venues.
- incorporating environmental education and procedures within the play based educational programs that help children to connect with nature and extend on current knowledge.
- fostering children's capacity to understand and respect the natural environment, and the interdependence between people, plants, animals and the land.
- supporting the development of positive attitudes and values in line with sustainable practices.
- ensuring that educators and other staff engage in sustainable practices during the operation of the service.

Background

"One of the most significant responsibilities that [early childhood] professionals have is to support children to retain the sense of awe and wonder that they are born with, to add to that a desire to nurture and protect what is beautiful, and to encourage them to appreciate that there are many possibilities for honouring life and wonders that the world holds" (Stonehouse, A. (2006) NSW Curriculum Framework for Children's Services – refer to Sources).

Policy Principles

All Surf Coast Shire Council Early Years Services.

Scope

This policy applies to:

Evidence of link to National Quality Standards: 3.2.2, 3.2.3,

Evidence of link to Education & Care Services National Regulations: N/A

Policy

The promotion of environmental practices within the Early Years Services will include all related Surf Coast Shire Council environmental strategies including:

- Water saving,
- Energy saving,
- Climate crisis,
- Green cleaning practices,
- Recycling and waste minimisation,
- Minimising the use of paper, by utilising electronic systems for the collection and distribution of information
- Ethical procurement of resources and materials,
- Use of natural cleaning products where possible,
- Efficient use of all natural resources within the service venue or residence.
- Re-using and recycling of waste materials (as appropriate and possible) in learning activities.
- Providing relevant information on sustainability which endeavours to increase the environmental awareness to our children, families, local neighbourhood, and global community.

- Keeping up to date with the latest research and teachings focusing on environmental education, through membership of relevant organisations such as EEEEC and professional development on extending and enhancing sustainability in the early years.

It is in the Early Childhood Years that the foundations are laid for the development of environmentally responsible adults" (Elliott and Davis, 2004)

As part of the education and care program educators will:

- Share information with children about the environment and the impact of human activity on the environment.
- Plan experiences that engage them with the environment and develop an understanding of the natural and constructed environments.
- Collaborate with local environmental groups and specialist services such as Eco-logic and Landcare.
- Incorporate appropriate sustainability practices within the service.

Where possible undertake the following types of activities:

- Growing plants from seeds.
- Planting herb or vegetable gardens.
- Recycling and repurposing activities.
- Resourcing materials.

Informing families about celebrating national, state wide and local community environmental awareness campaigns such as:

- Walk to Work Day
- Clean Up Australia Day
- National Recycling Week
- National Tree Planting Day
- World Environment Day
- Plastic Free July
- No Buy July

Promote strategies being adopted and implemented within the broader Surf Coast Shire Council.

Definitions

Not applicable.

Related Procedure

Nil.

References

Related Surf Coast Shire Council and Early Years Services Policies
Towards Environmental Leadership Program [scsenvironmentalleadership.com/]
Local Food Program [D18/2497]
Plastic Wise Events and Markets on Council owned/managed land [D16/20510]
Climate Change Strategy
Environmental management plan
Edible Landscapes
Street, Tree & Vegetation Policy & Guidelines
Asset Management Policy
Procurement Policy
Waste Management & Resource Recovery Services
MPR-014 Email/Internet Guidelines
MPR-014 Good Practice Guide to Email Communication
D15/35312 Early Years Child Safe Environment Policy
D14/70701 Early Years Educational Programs Policy
D14/70705 Early Years Excursions Policy

D15/35300 Early Years Sun Protection Policy
D15/33004 Early Years Supervision of Children Policy
D15/38683 Early Years Water Safety Policy

Related Surf Coast Shire Council and Early Years Services Work Instructions and Forms

Not Applicable

Other References

Early Childhood (EEEC)

Sustainability Victoria

Education and Care Services National Law 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

National Quality Framework Resource Kit November 2011

Document History

Version	Document History	Approved by – Date
1	<i>Amended</i>	Managed Aged and Family 1 June 2016
2	<i>Amended</i>	Managed Aged and Family 13 July 2018
3	<i>Amended</i>	Managed Aged and Family 9 January 2020
4	<i>Amended</i>	Manager Community Strengthening 16 July 2021