Hills Grammar

Environmental Sustainability Procedure

Statement

The ECEC encourages the awareness of environmental responsibilities and implements practices that contribute to a sustainable future. Children are supported to become environmentally responsible and show respect for the environment. Environmentally sustainable practices are embedded into the operations of the ECEC and involves educators, staff, children and families.

Rationale

The ECEC educators will oversee the environment is safe, clean and well-maintained. Children's awareness of the environment will be promoted through daily practices, resources and interactions. Sustainable practices will be encouraged within the ECEC at all times throughout the day. Educators, children and families will be encouraged to become advocates for a sustainable future.

Strategies

Educators will:

- Encourage families and children to engage in innovative practices and appreciate the wonder of the natural world while protecting the planet for future generations.
- Make sustainable practices a part of the daily routine. These include:
    - Recycling
    - Gardening
    - Energy conservation
    - Water conservation
    - Sustainable equipment purchases
    - Reducing waste
- Role model sustainable practices.
- Discuss sustainable practices with the children and families as part of the ECEC program.
- Provide information to families on sustainable practices that are implemented at the ECEC and encourage the application of these practices in the home environment.
- Share ideas between children and families about sustainable ideas, implementation and resources. This can be done through emails, newsletters and conversations.
- Role model energy and water conservation practices of turning off lights and air-conditioning when a room is not in use emptying water play containers onto garden areas etc.
- Educators will reduce the amount of plastic and disposable equipment they purchase.
- Seek to embed sustainable practice in the ECEC. The concepts of "reduce, re-use and recycle" will become part of everyday practice and language for both children and educators to build lifelong attitudes towards sustainable practices.
- Use local Council as sources of information on sustainable practices used in the local community.
- Involve children in the maintenance of the garden beds including pulling out weeds while wearing gloves, and watering the garden.
- Annually, organise a representative from the kNOw waste (or equivalent) program to deliver programs specialising in recycling and gardening.

- Engage with local businesses such as Bunnings and organise In School Excursions where appropriate.
- Plan special events throughout the year such as Earth Day and National Recycling week to support the children's understanding in environmental sustainability.
- Incorporate recycled materials into the children's play.

Statutory Legislation and Considerations

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

Guide to the National Quality Standard ACECQA

Sources

Community Early Learning Australia www.cela.org.au

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) www.acecqa.gov.au

Australian Childcare Alliance www.childcarealliance.org.au

Review

This policy is reviewed by management, employees and families as required or when legislative requirements change.

Families and staff are essential stakeholders in the policy review and will be given opportunity and encouragement to be actively involved.