SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

Sustainability means balancing the needs of humanity with the needs of the living earth.

Why?

The National Quality Standard 3.3 requires the service to take an active role in caring for its environment and contribute to a sustainable future.

The Early Years Learning Framework and My Time Our Place Outcome 2 refers to children becoming socially responsible and showing respect for the environment.

Children develop positive attitudes and values by engaging in learning experiences, joining discussions that explore solutions to the issues we face, and watching adults around them model sustainable practices.

School age care environments and resources can emphasis accountability for a sustainable future and promote understanding about their responsibility to care for the environment, day to day and for long term sustainability.

The DECD FDC Code of Conduct states that our decisions and actions have regard for the wellbeing of people and the environment, both now and for the future.

What?

Sustainable practices are things we can do to help our communities, suburbs, towns, cities, farms, parks and open spaces.

The best way to help children to care about the environment is to start in our own back yard. One person can make a difference in the world, a group of people making small changes can have a bigger impact.

Make sure to involve children and their families. When planning experiences for children try to include sustainable practices or theory.

How can you help the environment simply?

- Put rubbish in the bin
- Turn lights off
- Recycle
- Plant native trees
- Composting
- Walk to school
- Use public transport
- Share knowledge – parents, community, neighbours
- Reusing
- Avoid creating rubbish eg. Nude food
- Buy in bulk
- Collect water from shower and bath
- Wash car on lawn
- Don’t use standby mode
- Buy recycled products
- Use green / blue bags when shopping
- Short showers
- Use air-conditioner and heater only when necessary
- Food scrap bins
- Use recycled cups
- Drip irrigation for garden
How?

One of the easiest places to start is in the supermarket. Ask yourself four simple questions before making any purchase:
1. Do I really need this?
2. What is it made of and how was it made?
3. How many times can I use it?
4. What will become of the thing when I throw it away?

Talk with all children in care and make your own list of simple things that can be done to help the environment at your family day care. Build on this to develop a ‘green’ thread to your educational program.

Involves parents in the discussions and activities:
'I had the best day I have had in a long time! Spent the day with kids and their educators and I loved every minute. It’s nice to see that there are still people in the world that teach kids that plants and gardens rock! I came home with half a boot full of awesome plants and am so grateful. I have a full belly and more plants that is all I need in life to make me smile. Thank you girls for the best ever day!'

Want to know more?
These web sites are a good place to start:

http://tiki.oneworld.net/sustain/home.html for children

ECO ERA – Sustainable Living Guide
The Eastern Region Alliance (ERA) is an alliance between the Cities of Burnside, Campbelltown, Norwood Payneham & St Peters, Prospect, Tea Tree Gully, Unley and the Town of Walkerville. This guide is packed with ideas, tips and inspiration about how small, easy changes can have positive impacts on our environment, our wellbeing and even our wallets.

http://www.abc.net.au/gardening/


http://onepersoncan.org/


http://green.wikia.com/wiki/Category:SustainableLiving