



Periwinkle PRESCHOOL

for Rudolf Steiner
early childhood education

Environmental Sustainability

As a Preschool situated in the Northern Rivers our service has a strong environmentally sustainable community. The land that the Preschool is situated on is very valuable to our children & our community. We will continue to encourage and increase awareness of environmental responsibilities and implement practices that support a sustainable future for our children and the land. Our educators are committed to a path of inner development and appreciation of the environment.

Sustainable practices and awareness are emphasised within our community by:

- Planting, maintaining, and harvesting the produce in and from our garden beds.
- Encouraging Periwinkle children to plant, maintain and harvest Periwinkle grown produce.
- Including the Periwinkle garden produce in Preschool meals and snacks.
- Using water from our tanks for play (water pump) and being taught how to use it conservatively & sustainably.
- Composting all food waste.
- Using beeswax wraps instead of plastic wraps for storing food.
- Encouraging families to pack lunchboxes with as minimal waste as possible.
- Supplying children with their own cup for drinking water.

Goals / What are we going to do?

The education and care service will ensure the environment is safe, clean and well maintained for children, families and staff. Children's awareness of the environment will be promoted through daily practices, resources and interactions. Sustainable practices will be encouraged within the education and care service. Educators, children, and families will be encouraged to become advocates for a sustainable future.

Environmental Sustainability ~ Updated November 2022

Quality Area: 3 Physical Environment

Quality Area: 2 Children's Health & Safety

Quality Area: 1 Educational Program & Practice



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Strategies / How will it be done?

The Approved Provider will:

- Consider current research and strategies, participate in an environmental education network and/or liaise with other education and care services to keep up to date on good practices and ideas for sustainability at the service.
- Encourage educators, families and children to engage in innovative practices and appreciate the wonder of the natural world while protecting the planet for future generations.

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Educators will:

Educators will continue to make sustainable practices a part of the daily routine. These include:

- » Recycling
 - » Gardening
 - » Energy conservation
 - » Water conservation
 - » Sustainable resources and equipment purchases
- Include recycling as part of everyday practice at the education and care service. Recycling containers will be provided throughout the service.
 - Role model sustainable practices.
 - Discuss sustainable practices with the children and families as part of the services education and care curriculum.
 - Provide information to families on sustainable practices that are implemented at the education and care service and encourage the application of these practices in the home environment.
 - Share sustainability ideas, resources & implementation between educators, children, and families. This will be done at parent meetings, info nights, through emails, newsletters and conversations.
 - Use a worm farm or composting bin to reduce food waste in the education and care service. Children will be encouraged to place food scraps into separate containers for use in the worm farm or the composting bin. Educators will discuss with the children and families which scraps, worms can eat and which foods can be composted. The children will be involved in maintaining the worm farm and compost.
 - Role model energy and water conservation practices by turning off lights and air-conditioning when a room is not in use, emptying water play containers onto garden areas and using an appropriate amount of toilet paper.
 - Aim to purchase equipment that is eco-friendly where possible. Educators will reduce the amount of plastic and disposable equipment they purchase and select materials that are made of natural materials and fibres.
 - Seek to embed sustainable practice in the education and care service. We adopt the concepts of “reduce, re-use and recycle” as a part everyday practice for both children and educators to build lifelong attitudes towards sustainable practices.

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- Use local Council and Government departments as sources of information on sustainable practices used in the local community. They will liaise with the Council and Government departments for possible grants available to put in place water and energy conservation practices in the education and care service. These may include water tanks, grey water systems, converting toilet cisterns to dual flush and converting to water saving taps.

Evaluation

The education and care environment reflects sustainable practices, 'green cleaning' and eco-friendly choices. Educators, children, families and the wider community will learn together and embrace environmentally friendly practices.

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