

Connecting with your Community

Standard 3.3 of the National Quality Framework requires the service to take an active role in caring for its environment and contribute to a sustainable future. Educators can engage sustainable practice by saving energy and water, switching to environmentally friendly products, reusing and having open ended resources, recycling, setting up areas in the environment to provide for the future, and reducing waste.

When Educators role model respect to the environment with children and ensure their services embed sustainable practices, they are assisting the children to achieve Early Years Learning Framework:

OUTCOME 2: CHILDREN ARE CONNECTED WITH AND CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR WORLD

Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment

An important practice for Family Day Care services is reducing the amount of paper used. There are so many easy, alternate ways to communicate and connect with your Family Day Care community using technology and online services.

HAFDC now have an amazing online enrolment system for our Holistic community.

Children will no longer have a physical file at head office. Their entire file will be uploaded onto HubWorks and will be available for viewing by all Educators who have access to HubWorks.

Educators who do not have Hubworks can request a PDF copy of the child's enrolment details.

The process is simple and efficient for families, Educators and Admin. Just send the family the link for your state, get them to complete the forms and upload the extra details, then contact your Admin representative to confirm the enrolment is formal. It is also possible to use your ipad or smart phone to sign forms, including timesheets. Apps such as 'Adobe Fill & Sign', 'SignNow', or 'Microsoft Word Online' allow you to fill in documents without the waste of printing and scanning. More information can be found in the 'Welcome to Holistic Approach FDC' Handbook.

Marketing your service is an important aspect of running your own business. Online campaigns are cost effective, reach a wide audience, and are kind to our environment. Consider creating your own website, using a Facebook page, Gumtree, Care for Kids website or blog.

When creating your advertisements include your logo and business name, contact details, qualifications, and details about being registered with HAFDC (this is regulation). Keep it simple and link to your website or Facebook page for more information. Even if you don't have vacancies, spreading the word about your business will ensure you always have a waiting list and helps you to become known in your community.

Email your profile booklet and HAFDC Parent Handbook to families prior to care starting. This will save postage, printing and paper costs.

Going digital with documentation is a great way to incorporate sustainable practice into your service, and is also an effective way to reach families.

Facebook, text messages, iCloud and email are quick ways to send information for parents to see. This can also be passed on to Grandparents and other important people.

Apps such as Kinderloop, Seesaw and Story Park can notify families when documentation is added to individual children's profiles. You can create individual portfolios online, link group observations, add links to EYLF, and show the child's journey.

Photos of art can be added so that they can take their work home, and photos of your notes can be added as well.

Creative apps can be used to organise and display observations, for example PicCollage, Slideshow Maker, and Kidspiration.

Most of the documentation apps can be used on your phone or iPad meaning it can be done efficiently around the children. Digital documentation can be shared with the children by having a slideshow displayed on a television or digital photo frame.

Always ensure you back up saved documentation, especially when giving copies to families. That way you will have evidence saved for many years to come.

Newsletters can also be shared digitally too.

Contact your local council to find out more information about recycling paper programs.

Also, encourage families and local businesses to become involved by asking them to donate old paper for the children to use for their art work. Old calendars, diaries, documents printed incorrectly, signs and packaging can all be used in another way, and is also a great way to connect with locals.



Children develop an understanding and respect for the natural environment and the interdependence between people, plants, animals and the land. Educators and children work together to show respect, care and appreciation for the natural environment.

Adapted from the Early Years Learning Framework (Page 29)



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