



ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICE POLICY

Version 4 (May,2018)

Holistic Approach Family Day Care Scheme takes an active role and promotes the importance of BEING in a Natural Environment with continued support for children to appreciate, explore and experience Sustainable Practices, while BECOMING resourceful and helping to keep our planet healthy for years to come. We will work collaboratively with HAFDC staff, educators, families, children and the community to learn and embrace environmentally friendly practices daily.

AIM:

'We aim to promote Sustainable Practices that are embedded in our service operations. This includes consultants, educators, staff, families, volunteers and children working together to learn and show respect for our Natural Environment and the interdependence between people, plants, animals and the land.'

PROCEDURE:

Holistic Approach Family Day Care, consultants, staff and educators will ensure and support practices that will be embedded in daily routines and practices at the service by:

- Sustainable practices should be part of the daily routine, including: recycling, gardening, energy conservation, water conservation, sustainable equipment purchases and upcycling.
- Encouraging the use of water from tanks where possible when watering lawns and gardens as well as water play.
- Utilising electronic, online filing systems for educator and family documentation where possible.
- Encouraging educators and families to utilise electronic online systems.
- Encouraging children to reduce water usage – using water from water tanks, turning off taps and recycling unused water onto garden beds.
- Including children on discussions about caring for the environment and sustainable practices.
- Holistic Approach Family Day Care is a “smoke free environment” (See Smoke Free Environment Policy)
- Discussing with children ways to reduce, reuse, rethink, recycle and repair at home and at each Service.



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APPROACH FDC

- Encouraging interactions with the natural world by looking after our local flora and fauna.
- Being energy efficient, turning lights off when plenty of natural light is available.
- Providing information on activities designed to promote 'caring for the environment', such as 'Clean Up Australia' and 'Earth Hour'.
- Holistic Approach Family Day Care offer Training and Support to all their consultants and educators, keeping them up to date with current practices through webinars, conferencing, resources, sharing ideas with educators and families through emails, newsletters, conversations and consultant visits.
- Providing Intentional Teaching opportunities that engage them in appropriate sustainability practices within the service.
- Ensuring our Educators, Staff, Families and children share information and provide children with access to information about the environment and the impact of human activities on the environment.
- Educators will role model appropriate sustainable practices throughout the day.
- Staff will limit printing and photocopying and will always recycle paper where possible.
- HAFDC encourages all educators and consultants to either have an operating scanner or download the App "Cam Scanner" to assist with this policy.
- Supporting Educators who encourage animals in their programs and sustainable practices such as chickens and worm farms, with information, resources and available websites.
- 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 share information with families about what scraps worms can eat and which foods can be composted. The children will be encouraged to participate in the daily routine with the worm farm and compost.
- Providing spaces that promote the development of life skills, such as growing and preparing food, waste reduction and recycling.
- Recycling containers should be used throughout the family day care service.
- Educators should contact their Local Council and Government Departments to see what other sources and information is available in the local community.
- At the entrance of your FDC service, consider setting up displays of sustainability messages to share with families. Include locally relevant issues and information (local plants and wildlife, local bin colours and recycling systems etc).

HAFDC Staff:

- HAFDC will develop appropriate policies and practices to promote environmental sustainability. Our service is committed and willing to maintain environmental practices for the future.
- Provide information to educators electronically and /or use USB's to share information.
- HAFDC office will limit printing of documentation and utilise online. electronic systems to file appropriate paperwork for Educator and Children files.

Key points for a sustainable workplace:

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| *Water use | *Energy use | *Water minimisation and management |
| *Biodiversity | *Purchasing | *Chemical use |

- A Sustainability section will be included in each newsletter. This may include new ideas, photos of experiences the children have taken part in or community events.
- HAFDC is a member of the NSW Early Childhood Environmental Education Network so that we can liaise and network with other education and care services and keep up to date on practices and ideas for sustainability.
- Use energy and water conservation practices daily within all offices (turning off lights and a/c when room not in use).
- Buy books and resources with environmental content to share with the children and educators on visits.
- Include "Sustainability" in the agenda at staff meetings and forums.
- Staff will limit printing and photocopying and always recycle paper where possible.

Sustainability needs to be embedded within the curriculum and part of the day to day running of the service. Sustainability education, enables staff, educators and children to promote a sense of responsibility, show respect for the natural environment, be active participants and bring about enquiry and social change.

Educators and children work together to learn about the environment and promote sustainable use of resources and to develop and implement sustainable practices



Websites

www.kidsafensw.org

www.ecofoot.org

www.freshgreenclean.com.au

www.fairtrade.net

www.wwf.org.au

www.planetark.org

www.landcareonline.com

www.lovefoodhatewaste.nsw.gov.au

<http://www.eceen.org.au>

<http://www.sustainablelivingguide.com.au/garden/keep-chickens>

<http://aussiechildcarenetwork.com.au/articles/childcare-articles/sustainability-practices-in-childcare>

RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND SOURCES

Education and Care Services National Regulation

Education and Care Services National Law Act

National Quality Standards

Guide to the National Quality Standard ACECQA

Code of Ethics: Australian Early Childhood Association.

Early Years Learning Framework

Boyle, L (2006) Environmental Experiences in Child Care.

NCAC Putting Children First.

Davis, J (2005) Sustainable Planet Project. Every Child. V11 (4)

Kinsella, R (2007) Greening Services: Practical Sustainability.

Australian Early Childhood Association.

Lee, C (2007) Empower: Beyond Compost and Worm Farms. Connecting with the Environment. Every Child V13 (1)

Energy Efficiency Opportunities Act 2006

REVIEW PROCESS

Version	Date	Responsible Person
1	Jan, 2014	Tracey Yeomans
2	April 2015	Vicki Carmicheal /Tracey Yeomans / Kim Wyatt
3	February 2017	Lucinda Stott / Vicki Carmichael
4	May 2018	Kim Thomas

This policy is the intellectual property of Holistic Approach Family Day Care and is created with consultation of staff and families attending the service.

This policy will be reviewed as required.

This policy is available in other languages upon request.