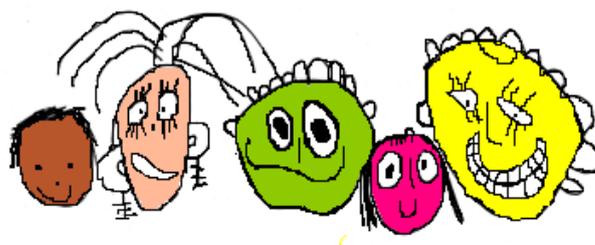


## Hamilton Community Pre-School

*"Where discoveries, learning and fun connect."*



### Information Sheets for Parents

# Sustainability in Action

#### What is sustainability?

Sustainability is living in harmony with the natural world around us. The UN's Brundtland Commission described it as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

#### Why is it important?

The World Summit on Social Development identified three pillars of sustainability: economic development, social development and environmental protection.

At Hamilton Community Preschool we focus on environment protection and social development. A key element of which is education - encouraging people to participate in environmental sustainability.

#### What we are doing at Hamilton Community Preschool?

We encourage the children to be responsible members of the community and to think about the size of their footprint on the environment.

We "foster an appreciation of the natural environment, develop environmental awareness and provide a platform for ongoing environmental education." (Belonging, Being & Becoming-EYLF, 2009)

They can take the information they have learnt at preschool and share it with you and other family members. Sharing of information is a great way of getting the message across about the importance of looking after our environment by doing things like recycling.

At Preschool we are working towards being more sustainable and have introduced many ways on which we are embedding sustainability into our program.

#### Waste Minimisation

- Recycling - Specific bins designed to teach awareness to the children about what can be recycled and how to minimize our general waste.
- Children encouraged to bring food scraps from home to feed our worms and compost
- Reuse glass, plastic and paper products in the centre –e.g. paint pots, storage containers.
- Encourage children to use both sides of the paper.
- Newsletters and notes to parents via email.
- Encourage children and families to recycle small boxes and paper, and bring it to preschool to use at art areas.
- Use recycled materials in art and crafty area.
- Involve the service and children in [National Recycling Week](#) – Recycling old toys and books

- Lids/yoghurt pots –are washed and reused in our art and craft areas where the children use them in their creations or as loose parts play.
- Waste free lunch boxes – no plastic, only reusable containers

#### Gardening

- Children water, replant and take care of gardens
- Food scraps to go into our compost bins – which turns into soil for our gardens
- Food scraps to feed worms – this then turns into our fertiliser for our gardens.
- Looking after succulents
- Cooking from our produce.

#### Energy Saving

- Lights and all electrical appliances turned off when not in use.
- Reminders in newsletters for children to dress appropriately for each season, also to have spare warm and cooler clothing – this will minimise the need for heaters and air conditioners.
- Provide children with spray bottles on hot days and encourage children to cool themselves with them if they feel hot.
- In newsletters encourage parents to close doors behind them on cooler day to retain the heat in the room.
- Promote [Earth Hour](#) at our centre, the week before.

#### Water Saving

- Use water tank for gardening and water play.
- Empty water tray into gardens and pots, using watering cans.
- Reminders for children to turn taps off in bathroom and outdoor area.
- Involve children and families in [National Water Week](#) in October

#### Green Play

- Paint on off cut timber, fabric, stones or leaves instead of paper.
- Children can collect items from home and bring into preschool to use in art/collage areas.
- Use whiteboards instead of paper for children to draw on.

#### Every little bit helps

According to Australian Bureau of Statistics the average Australian generates approximately 2140kg of waste per year. That is a lot of waste for one person. Only about half of that waste gets recycled each year. While there has been a 51% increase in the amount of waste recycled over the last 5 years, there is still much more we can do. By educating our children and instilling in them behaviours at an early age, we will increase the awareness of recycling and develop more sustainable practices.

So how can you reduce the impact of your household rubbish? Ask yourself do you really need that product, can I refuse that plastic bag and can I recycle this product, or how can I reuse this product. Your environment will love you for thinking about these questions. So take action on reducing your general waste and make recycling a second nature in your household. We have at Hamilton Community Preschool!