

Hamilton Community Pre-School

"Where discoveries, learning and fun connect"



Information Sheets for Parents:

Sustainability in Action

National Quality Standard – Quality Area 3

Element 3.2.3 – Environmentally responsible. The service cares for the environment and supports children to become environmentally responsible.

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 Pre-School 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 Pre-School?

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 Pre-School 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 Pre-School we are working towards being more sustainable and have introduced many ways on which we are embedding sustainability into our program such as :-

➤ Waste Minimisation

- Recycling - Specific bins designed to teach awareness to the children about what can be recycled and how to minimize our general waste.
- Reuse glass, plastic and paper products in the centre –e.g. paint pots, storage containers, loose parts play.
- Encourage children to use both sides of the paper.
- Information to parents via email.
- Encourage children and families to recycle small boxes and paper, and bring it to Pre-School to use at art areas.
- Use recycled materials in art and craft area.
- Involve the service and children in National Recycling Week – Recycling old toys and books
- Waste free lunch boxes – no plastic, only reusable containers
- Collect the children’s micro plastics and take them to a collection service

➤ Gardening

- Children water, replant and take care of gardens
- Food scraps to go into our compost bins
- Food scraps to feed worms
- Looking after succulents
- Cooking from our produce.

➤ Energy Saving

- Lights and all electrical appliances turned off when not in use.
- Provide children with spray bottles on hot days and encourage children to cool themselves with them if they feel hot.
- Promote Earth Hour at our centre.

➤ 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 Pre-School to use in art/collage areas.
- Use whiteboards instead of paper for children to draw on.

Every little bit helps.... Can you do more??????

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.

For more information on sustainability: -

- <https://planetark.org/programs/national-recycling-week>
- <https://planetark.org/>
- <https://www.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/>