



Lonsdale Heights Preschool Sustainability Policy

This policy is consistent with the requirements of the:

- **National Quality Standard and Regulations**
 - o **National Quality Standard 1.2, 3.1, 3.2**
 - o **Regulation 103, 105, 155, 156**

At Lonsdale Heights Preschool we believe that action for sustainability is vital for every child's future.

Statement of Intent:

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

Through this policy our goals are to:

- take an active role in caring for our environment and contribute to a sustainable future whereby sustainable practices are embedded in our service operations;
- support children to become environmentally responsible and show respect for the environment as well as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples connection to Country and the Waterways; and
- promote sustainable practices within the Preschool community (children, parents, educators, Governing Council, cleaners & gardeners)

As Educators we will provide learning opportunities that:

- show respect to Country and Kaurna people, the local custodians of the Adelaide Plains
- foster children's capacity to understand and respect the natural environment and the interdependence between people, plants, animals and the land; and
- provide spaces that promote the development of life skills, such as growing and preparing food, waste reduction and recycling.

PROCEDURES USED TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS

Whilst recognising the interconnectedness of sustainable practices, we will adopt the following procedures in our daily routines:

Reducing Waste Procedures

1. Purchasing and packaging

The preschool purchases a significant amount of material each year including educational resources, art materials, and furniture and food stuffs.

When making purchasing decisions the following will be considered:

- Need for the item – consider the rationale for having the item, how it can be sourced? Could it be borrowed?
- Recycled content of item and its potential for recycling or end use / disposability
- Bulk buying of items to minimise cost & packaging
- Looking for "greener options" symbols in catalogues and other promotional material
- Sharing of resources with other educational centres
- Community involvement - families are encouraged to, where possible, donate resources (for example boxes for construction)
- Consider purchasing recycled paper

2. Recycling



- Rubbish bins are coded green, yellow and red, to match the kerbside bins and make it easier for children and adults to successfully manage recyclable materials
- Explicit teaching for children occurs, on a regular basis, to manage the bins i.e. beginning of each term and as required
- A range of recycled materials and resources are collected & used on a daily basis i.e. boxes, yogurt containers, bottle caps, inner tubes from Glad Wrap etc. for construction and loose parts play; pipes and plastic bowls for use in the sandpit; telephones and keyboards for dramatic play
- Collage trolley to include 5 recycled & 3 purchased items
- Toners & printer cartridges to be recycled

3. Organics

- Green bins are used to collect food scraps and leaf litter
- Where possible food scraps can be collected and sent home to families with chickens
- Vegetable garden promotes food production, importance of composting
- Ongoing learning may include the importance of life cycles (wanderer butterflies, worms, mini beasts & frogs) in our environment

4. Litter – Food Packaging

- The preschool endeavours to drastically reduce the amount of litter that occurs in the preschool by:
 - Encouraging package free lunchboxes on Thursdays (Nude Food Day)
 - Encouraging families to support the preschool in our sustainable endeavours by packing their child a 'low to no packaging' lunchbox
 - Smaller red bins (waste) than yellow bins (recyclables) to encourage less waste

5. Waste minimisation

- Families have access to newsletters via electronic media i.e. email
- Low to No Packaging in lunchboxes encouraged

6. Conservation of energy

- Water conservation: timer taps installed in bathroom areas, promotion of half / full flush in the toilets, limited supply of water in sandpit play, activities that promote recycling water, watering plants in the cooler part of the day to maximise absorption
- Energy efficiency - Turning off lights, fans & heaters, computers when not in use

We will continue to reflect on our practices and implement improvements.

Last Approved: Term 1, 2020

Updated: 09/12/2022

Date for next Review: 2023

Approved by: Governing Council

Date Approved: 12/12/2022