

ENVIRONMENT POLICY Version 1.11

Keithcot Farm Children's Centre is committed to becoming energy efficient, reducing carbon emissions and reducing our financial expenses in regard to waste management. As a staff team, we will actively seek out alternatives to materials used throughout the Centre and incorporate any that may be more sustainable than those currently used. All staff will ensure sustainable practices are embedded in service operations. This will result in a reduction in the overall waste daily due to appropriate recycling techniques by staff, children and the contract cleaners. Children will learn about sustainable practices through the curriculum and the importance of learning how to protect the environment e.g., when we have chickens, food waste is given to them and their eggs are used by our Cook for meals here.

Implementation

Paper

Where possible, we purchase photocopying and computer paper which is made from 100% post-consumer recycled wastepaper. Staff are encouraged to use both sides of paper when printing, and to avoid printing if possible.

Recycling

Educators will introduce children to the concepts of recycling, re-using, and reducing our overall waste by using games, books, and the Smartboard. Recycling bins will be used throughout the Centre for paper, card and other recyclable items and families will be asked to donate materials for the collage and woodwork tables, rather than the Centre purchasing new materials for these experiences. Children are encouraged to take home their named artwork and collage creations. Used printer and toner cartridges, exhausted writing implements, and batteries are recycled at Officeworks and / or Bunnings.

Water Use

Where possible, Educators and children will use water saving taps to wash their hands. Other taps should not run while children soap their hands. Children will be encouraged to water the garden using water in jugs left over from snack times and emptying the water trough on the garden after play. Water in the sandpit will be monitored by Educators to ensure that it is not wasted.

Energy Use

Fluorescent lights throughout the Centre have been replaced with energy efficient lights that are 30% brighter and 30% cheaper to operate. Switches have been adjusted so that fewer lights need to be on at a time, and areas can be isolated for lighting as necessary. Natural light is used as much as possible.

We use an outside clothesline whenever possible to avoid using the clothes drier. Solar panels have been installed to reduce our total energy usage.

Cleaning

Tables, chairs, shelves etc. are cleaned with hot, soapy water.

CREATED: September 2013

REVIEWED: April 2014, April 2015, April 2016, April 2017, April 2018, April 2019, January 2020, January 2021, January 2022, January 2023

TO BE REVIEWED: January 2024

SOURCED: 'Sustainable Directions' Small Green Steps program 2012

Jaki Bokashi booklet 2013

Reflex Copy Paper * Post-consumer recycled wastepaper as defined under AS / NZS ISO 14021:2000
Environmental Labels and Declarations