



# Environmental Sustainability

Approval: July 2021

Review: July 2023

## POLICY STATEMENT:

Bondi Before & After School Care aims to increase the awareness of environmental responsibility within the service. We aim to make our practices eco-friendly and involve all children, families and Educators so that we are successful. Sustainability is embedded in both our philosophy and program.

## NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 3: PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT		
3.2	Use	The service environment is inclusive, promotes competence and supports exploration and play-based learning.
3.2.1	Inclusive Environment	Outdoor and indoor spaces are organised and adapted to support every child's participation and to engage every child in quality experiences in both built and natural environments.
3.2.2	Resource' support play-based learning	Resources, materials and equipment allow for multiple uses, are sufficient in number, and enable every child to engage in play-based learning.
3.2.3	Environmentally responsible	The service cares for the environment and supports children to become environmentally responsible.

## PROCEDURE:

### a) Routines

- Children, families and Educators to share and engage in eco-friendly practices, to aim to give children and their families an awareness of the need to protect the planet and it's future for the generations to come.
- The Centre will make the following part of their daily routine:
  - o Recycling
  - o Water Conservation
  - o Energy Conservation
  - o Gardening
  - o Purchasing sustainable equipment
  - o Using recycled material for craft
  - o Sustainability to be included in newsletters
  - o Sustainability to be an item on meeting agendas and relate to the Quality Improvement Plan

- o Maintaining a sustainability checklist
- o Saving leftover drinking water to place in the garden.
- o Turn off taps, light switches etc.
- Review procedures and policies regularly to make them more sustainable
- Reduce paper by considering electronic newsletters, invoices, enrolment records etc.
- Keep up to date with your local council and Government departments regarding information on sustainable practices in your local community. Look for grants that allow you to improve water and energy conservation.
- Educators to role model good sustainable practices.
- Use recycled materials as containers instead of using new plastic containers.
- Encourage children to recycle paper.
- Sustainability should be embedded in the program. Discuss it with the children and the families. Ask the children and the families to come up with some ideas to improve the sustainability of the Centre.
- Get the children to be in charge of the Sustainability Checklist.
- Aim to establish a garden, a worm farm and a compost bin. Discuss with the children how it all works and why we need to do this.
- Reduce the amount of plastic and disposable equipment at the Centre and aim to purchase materials made from natural fibres.
- “Reduce, reuse and recycle” should be displayed at the Centre and it should be a natural process for all concerned.
- Provide information to families about how they can help their children learn about sustainability and what they can do at home, as well as at the Centre.

CONSIDERATIONS	
<b>Education &amp; Care Services National Regulations</b>	113
<b>National Quality Standard</b>	3, 5, 6, 7,
<b>Service Policies &amp; Documentation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Parent Handbook</li> <li>● Staff Handbook</li> <li>● Acceptance and Refusal of Authorisations Policy</li> <li>● Enrolment and Orientation Policy</li> <li>● Administration of Medication Policy</li> <li>● Providing a Child Safe Environment Policy</li> <li>● Administration of First Aid Policy</li> </ul>
<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● My Time Our Place</li> <li>● <a href="http://www.netoosh.org.au/eco/checklists.htm">http://www.netoosh.org.au/eco/checklists.htm</a></li> <li>● <a href="http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/what-we-offer/regulation-and-accreditation/early-childhood-education-care/useful-links-and-resources/sustainability-resources">http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/what-we-offer/regulation-and-accreditation/early-childhood-education-care/useful-links-and-resources/sustainability-resources</a></li> </ul>

