



## QA 3 - SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE POLICY

### RATIONAL:

The centre aims to foster a culture of sustainability in our teaching, research, community engagement and corporate practices.

### GOALS/PURPOSE:

- To establish and maintain a sustainable environment.
- To teach the importance of sustainable practices and Environmental Change through daily practices and implementation of environmentally safe and sustainable practices.
- To ensure a safe, clean and environment for all.
- To ensure the safety of all while involved in procedures for environmental change.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management and visitors of the Service.

### RELEVANT LAWS, SOURCES AND/OR PROCEDURES:

- Links to Food Safety and Hygiene Policy, Risk management policy
- Education and Care Services National Regulations
- Staff Handbook
- Parent Handbook.
- The Business of Childcare, Karen Kearns. 2004
- National Quality Standards
- QA3
- Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities – [www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au)
- Queensland Early childhood Sustainability Network.

### STRATEGIES AND/OR PROCEDURE:

At Building Futures Montessori, we believe that a sustainable future starts with education. Through every day practices the children and families of the service can incorporate sustainable practices into their everyday lives. Environmentally sustainable practices are embedded into the program and philosophy through Montessori teaching and learning to care for the environment. Our service is committed to protecting our environment to ensure a sustainable future for our children. This involves educators, children and families working together to protect our environment to ensure a sustainable future for our children through continuous improvement.

### Management may:

- Network with the local community to keep up to date with current practices and ideas for sustainability. This may include water tanks, grey water system, converting toilet cisterns to dual flush and converting water saving taps.
- Encourage educators, families and children to engage in innovative practices and appreciate the natural environment.
- Ensure the Service joins a preferred provider e.g: the Queensland Early Childhood Sustainability Network (or State equivalent) to liaise with other education and care services and keep up to date on practices and ideas for sustainability.

- Where relevant, review policies and procedures within the Service to find more sustainable outcomes. (eg: Using Cloth towel instead of paper towel to dry hands).
- Look at energy and efficiency features for the service – solar panels, ensure building designed to support natural light, air flow and shade/sunlight.
- Where possible electronic communication will be used to reduce paper use within the office and in each room for newsletters, billing and other communication needs.
- Source resources and materials from Recycled or second-hand stores to use within the Service.
- Ensure sustainable practices are incorporated into the daily routine.

These may include:

- Sustainable Practice Ideas Recycling
- Recycling paper and rubbish
- Using recycled water Gardening
- Planting vegetables, herbs and fruits
- Establishing and maintaining a Worm Farm
- Give food scraps to worms or the animals
- Educating children and have them participate in ‘garden to plate’ activities.
- Educating children about seed sprouting, weeding, vegetable gardens, cooking etc.
- Energy Conservation - Turn off lights and switches when not in use
- Water Conservation - Using half flush on the toilet, Turning off the water when not in use, Encouraging shorter showers, Turning off tap when brushing teeth
- Natural Resources & Equipment
- Caring for pets and gardens
- Reusing natural materials
- Educating children in the natural decomposition cycle through exposure and participation in worm farms and composting food scraps.

Educators may:

- Incorporate recycling as part of everyday practice at the Service. Recycling containers will be provided throughout meal times and experiences. Children will be encouraged to place food scraps into separate containers for use in the worm farm or composting bin. Educators will discuss with the children and families, which scraps worms can eat, which foods can be composted. The children will be involved in maintaining the worm farm and compost bin.
- Role model sustainable practices.
- Discuss sustainable practices with the children and families & local community as part of the curriculum and Montessori Program.
- Provide information to families on sustainable practices that are implemented at the Service and encourage the application of these practices in the home environment to encourage the children’s learning and embed sustainable practices at home.
- Knowledge sharing between educators, children and families about sustainable ideas, implementation and resources.
- Role model energy and water conservation practices of turning off lights and air-conditioning when a room is not in use, emptying water play containers onto garden areas.
- Seek to purchase equipment that is environmentally friendly where possible. Educators will reduce the amount of plastic and disposable equipment they purchase and select materials that are made of natural materials.
- Use the concept of “reduce, re-use and recycle” which will become part of everyday practice for both children and educators to build lifelong attitudes towards sustainable practices.

## REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED	MODIFICATIONS
23/11/2018	MINOR MODIFICATIONS MADE.
25/07/2023	Added solar panels