

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY



*Every child
has the right
to an education
that fosters respect for
the natural
environment.*



ROXBY DOWNS
KINDERGARTEN
learn play grow



PROMOTING SUSTAINABILITY IN OUR KINDERGARTEN COMMUNITY

Roxby Downs Kindergarten aims to take an active role in caring for its environment and contributing towards a sustainable future. We aim to develop positive life-long attitudes and values towards the environment and sustainability in the young children of Roxby Downs. We want the children to become socially aware and show respect for their environment.

To do this we promote a number of sustainable practices in our kindergarten environment and within the Roxby Downs community, and we foster respect and care for the environment. We also engage children in learning experiences, projects, and discussions around issues of sustainability, and as a staff team model sustainable practices.

REDUCING, REUSING, RECYCLING

We aim to reduce the waste created at the kindergarten by reusing and recycling as much as we can through our everyday routines and practices.



Families are encouraged to bring reusable materials to the kindergarten that can be used for children's art and craft work.

Reusable materials (such as yogurt containers and boxes) collected at the kindergarten are used in the craft area.

Families are encouraged to pack waste-free or 'litter-less' lunches.

Recyclable materials are collected in recycling bins at the kindergarten.



GOING GREEN IN THE GARDEN

Our kinder-garden is a popular place for young children and our kindy tree is often a highlight for them in their preschool year. In the garden we aim to develop an appreciation and care for the natural environment and opportunities to explore relationships with other living things.

Children engage in the daily composting of fruit and vegetable scraps which are used for our vegetable garden.

Children and educators plant, grow and care for their vegetable garden which is used for regular cooking experiences.

Children are actively involved in caring for our resident turtles, Daisy and Tiger.

In 2013 the garden upgrade will include re-vegetation with native and local plants.



SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN THE CURRICULUM

Educators look for ways to promote sustainability and children's respect for, and engagement with, the environment on a daily basis.

We learn songs and read stories about sustainable practices/lifestyles and environmental issues.

Where possible we purchase or use natural materials and resources for children to work with.

Regular curriculum projects over a period of time explore environmental issues, such as recycling.

Examples of children's learning and engagement with sustainable practices are documented and placed in each child's portfolio.

Children are actively encouraged to play in the garden area and intentionally taught skills such as how to climb a tree safely.

A regular health hustle is held in the garden area every Friday.



SAVING OUR WATER & ENERGY

Roxby Downs is located in an arid landscape and water is a very precious commodity. We aim to reduce our usage of water and increase children's understanding of water saving practices. We also aim to be as energy efficient as possible.

Educators model water saving practices such as the usage of water in the sandpit.

The sandpit has a small river that releases limited water for play.

Water-saving taps have been installed in the children's bathroom and near the sandpit.

A *switch-off strategy* will be used where possible with energy using equipment (including lights and office equipment).

Families are encouraged to consider sustainable travel to kindergarten.



BEING SUN SMART

Roxby Downs experiences extreme weather during the summer months. The kindergarten has a skin protection policy and a number of Sun Smart practices in daily use.

Children and educators wear sunhats throughout the year when they play in the garden area.

Shade trees, shade sails, umbrellas and verandahs are used for children's outdoor play.

In the summer months (Terms 1 and 4) children (with the assistance of educators) apply sunscreen before outdoor play.

Educators reinforce the Sun Smart message in kindergarten activities and model appropriate Sun Smart practices.



CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY

Connecting the kindergarten's sustainability strategy with the wider Roxby Downs community gives children an active voice and role in contributing to the care of the local environment.

A representative of the kindergarten will participate on, or liaise with the local Environmental Forum.

Sustainability practices and environmental projects undertaken by the children will be promoted through local media outlets (local newspaper and radio).

Regular updates of the sustainability strategy will be placed in the kindergarten newsletter.

Wherever possible guest speakers and free events promoting sustainability will be promoted through the kindergarten.



BELONGING, BEING & BECOMING SUSTAINABLE

Belonging, Being and Becoming: the early years learning framework drives the teaching and learning at our kindergarten.

Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world guides educators to promote children's social responsibility and respect for the environment.

We want children to:

Belong to a group and to the wider community that promote sustainable practices

Be engaged in meaningful experiences that promote sustainability

Become active creators of a sustainable future.



OUR COMMITMENT

The United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child states:

Every child has the right to an education that fosters respect for the natural environment.

Our commitment is to uphold this right by taking every opportunity to foster children's capacity to understand and respect the natural environment and to develop life-long behaviours and attitudes that contribute to a sustainable future.