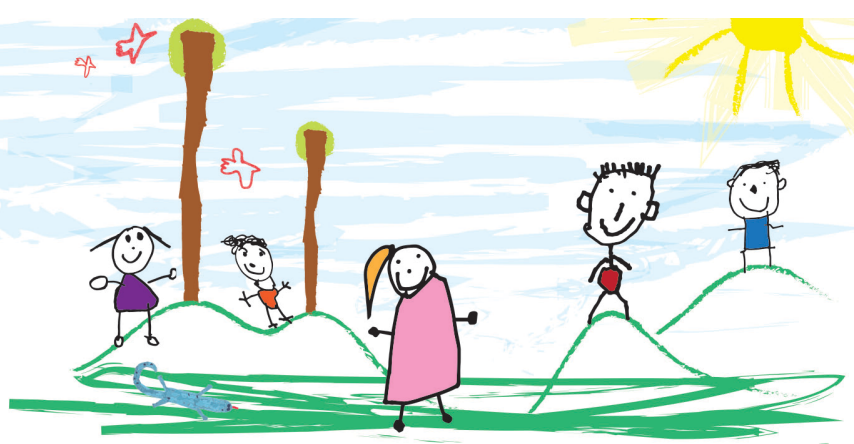




St James Park Kindergarten



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Sustainability Policy

St James Park 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 our young children.

We want our 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 our community and we foster respect and care for the environment. We also encourage children to engage in learning experiences, projects, and discussions around issues of sustainability, and as a staff team we 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 reusable containers and limit packages and food wrapping.

Recyclable materials are collected in recycling bins at the kindergarten.

Going Green in the Garden

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 take responsibility for the care of our pet chickens. Children are actively involved in the collection of eggs, feeding and maintaining a clean water supply for our chickens.

Children use our fruit and vegetable scraps as food for our chickens.

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

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 a wider community that promote sustainable practices.

Be engaged in meaningful experiences that promote sustainability.

Become active creators of a sustainable future.

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

- Our children take responsibility for doing safety checks each morning, this daily practice encourages ongoing reflection and a deep awareness of their environment, its value and our impact on it.
- We learn songs and read stories about sustainable practices and environmental issues.
- Where possible we purchase or use natural materials and resources for children to work with.
- We have colour coded bins to encourage children to manage their waste, food scraps and recyclables.
- Items used at kindy are recycled whenever possible (i.e. toner and printer cartridges)
- Our rain water tanks are plumbed to the children's toilets to make use of this valuable resource.
- We aim to be energy efficient, turning off lights, fans, heaters and coolers when not in use.

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.