



## SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

### AIM

As a community, we can create, encourage and increase awareness of environmental responsibility and guide Centre practices. These practices need to be eco-friendly and involve staff, children and families to be successful. Environmental education promotes acquisition of knowledge, skills and values about the environment, often with a science and nature focus. Environmental education in the preschool setting is to promote informed and skill the children and families to demonstrate environmental awareness and interest about environmental issues. Sustainability can be defined in a broader and more holistic context of education for the environment. To educate for sustainability is to promote a sense of responsibility, respect, active participation, enquiry, and social change.

### PROCEDURE (STRATEGIES)

- Implement a holistic and practical approach to sustainability, trialling practices as needed.
- Participate in early childhood environmental education organizations and other sustainability networks – Rous water with ideas and recourses to promote sustainability and environmental awareness.
- Staff will make sustainable practices a part of the daily routine. These include:
  - Recycling
  - Gardening
  - Energy conservation
  - Water conservation
  - Sustainable equipment purchases
- Staff will discuss sustainable practices with the children as part of the Centre's curriculum. Idea sharing will be encouraged between the staff, children and families' sustainable ideas, implementation and resources. This can be done at parent/guardian meetings, through emails, newsletters and conversations.
- The staff will implement a worm farm to reduce food waste in the Centre.
- Children will be encouraged to place food scraps into appropriate containers or dug into the garden if not used in the worm farm.
- The staff will discuss with the children and families what worms can eat and what foods can be composted.
- The children will be involved in maintaining the worm farm.
- The staff and children will develop, maintain a garden for food and herbs.
- The staff and children will use water from water tanks for watering gardens.
- Children will be encouraged to use the 3 different coloured bins daily or take home their packaging that can't be used for craft.