

Loxton District Children's Centre	
Policy ID:	POL-
Version:	1
Review Date:	Sept 2016
Next Review Date:	Sept 2018

1. Policy Overview

The Loxton District Children's Centre (LDCC) will provide an environmental program for children to provide them with knowledge, skills and attitude to assist them to become environmentally responsible. We believe LDCC staff, children and families can take responsibility for actions that impact on the planet, be active citizens for change and ensure there is hope for a sustainable life and healthy environment for future generations

2. Policy Statement

The Loxton District Children's Centre (LDCC) is committed to working towards a sustainable future for a healthy community, healthy economy and healthy environment. LDCC aim to work with all staff, children and families in instilling a sense of responsibility and respect for the environment. We aim to provide inspiration and guidelines on sustainable practices and engage involvement in these responsible practices. We will give children the opportunity to connect, explore and engage within environments with valuable learning opportunities.

3. Implementation

The LDCC will ensure the following strategies are implemented:

To engage staff in the vision of early childhood 'education for sustainability'

Environment and sustainability trainings will be available for staff participation, a sustainability sub-committee will be formed and this committee will meet throughout the year. Woodleigh is currently a subscriber to the Murray Natural Resource Board newsletter and had partaken in trainings offered.

To make children central in the co-construction of our curriculum

Educators will provide opportunities to educate children in life long attitudes towards reducing, reusing and recycling so that children can have a better basis for decisions concerning their learning and environments.

To invite children to ask questions, find answers and make changes

Educators will provide children with open ended learning activities that will encourage children to question decisions made. Educators will engage in positive conversations with children challenging them to question 'why' and 'what', and to research, discovering the answers together.

To embed recycling and green waste separation into daily practices

Educators will role model and encourage children to practice the separation of green waste and recycling from general landfill waste. This will be done at meal times, change times and any other play resulting in waste. Children will be encouraged to participate in composting with lidded compost bins available in both outdoor yards. Educators where possible will compost paper/ paper towel waste. Bins are provide from Loxton Recycling to recycle cardboard, paper and plastics. Fruit

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and vegetable scraps can be fed to the animals. Children will be provided with appropriate protective apparel when participating in these activities. Reuse plastic bags for children's dirty clothing.

To embed garden practices

Educators will role model and encourage children to participate in gardening practices, taking care of the environment, garden areas and produce growing in the vegetable garden area. Activities will include seed sprouting, weeding, vegetable gardens, cooking etc. Educate children about where food comes from, what they eat and teach children to start with small portions, decreasing food wastage.

For staff and children in caring for the pets

Staff and children will feed, water, clean housing and interact with animals, educating children in a sense of responsibility, caring and tolerance. Animals provide a source of wonder, interest and pleasure for all ages.

For staff and children to realise and identify water wastage

Through conversations, staff will encourage children to use rain water from Woodleigh's three rain water tanks for watering plants, explaining the cycle of precipitation- evaporation and the interdependence of plants, animals and humans to water. Unused water and milk from meal times will be collected into a jug and will be used to water plants. Water for play purposes will be limited so excess water wastage is reduced. Staff, Joeys/ Kangaroos and Kookaburras toilets are dual flush and children will be encouraged where possible to use the half flush. Taps in the Kookaburras, Kangaroos/ Joeys rooms are easy to turn off and set with low flow restrictions.

For staff to identify and minimise power wastages and usages

Where there is alternative light source and adequate lighting, lights will be turned off to save electricity usage, T.V's will be turned off at the power point each night as well as any other appliance not needing continual power to run. Staff will discuss the importance of saving electricity as well as discuss Woodleigh's use of Solar panels. Woodleigh has a 20kw solar panel system and this provides a large amount of our electricity needs. When possible wet washing will be hung out to dry rather than put in the dryer.

The staff of Loxton District Children's Centre are committed to learning more about sustainability practices and will attend courses where possible to update knowledge, through professional conversations and staff attending courses will bring back information and discuss with the other staff at staff meetings and room meetings.

The use of recycled or natural materials will be encouraged in play and creative experiences. Any leftover materials will be appropriately reused or recycled where possible.

Re-usable, washable cloths will be used where possible for the cleaning of tables and chairs with the aim of reducing the amount disposable paper towel consumed by the centre.

Staff, Management Committee and parents, will seek and apply for grants, where appropriate to support the implementation of strategies within this policy.

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Reducing, reusing and recycling will be key daily practices at Woodleigh with the emphasis on educators and children working together to make decisions, educate themselves and creating better work/play environments for both themselves and future generations. We believe that in changing our practices we are helping to leave our environments as they were before if not even better.

4. Review

The Sustainability Policy will be reviewed every two years.

4. References

- Standard 3.3 The service takes an active role in caring for its environment and contributes to a sustainable future
- Element 3.3.1 Sustainable practices are embedded in service operations
- 3.3.2 Children are supported to become environmentally responsible and show respect for the environment

5. Related LDCC Documents

Woodleigh's Environmental Vision Statement

Endorsed by Director – Jo Mitchell	
Director Signature.....	Date/...../.....
Endorsed by Employee Rep. Name –	
Employee Signature	Date...../...../.....
Adopted by Management Committee	
Management Committee Chairperson Signature.....	Date...../...../.....
Date Minuted:...../...../.....	Date of implementation:/...../.....

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Review History

Document History	Version No	Issue Date	Description of Change:
	1.0		Developed, June 2008