Environmental Sustainability Policy

Quality Area 6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
Standard 6.1: Respectful supportive relationships with families are developed and maintained.
Element 6.1.2: Families have opportunities to be involved in the service and contribute to service decisions.

Quality Area 3: Physical Environment
Standard 3.2: The environment is inclusive, promotes competence, independent exploration and learning through play.
Element 3.3.1: Sustainable practices are embedded in service operations.
Element 3.3.2: Children are supported to become environmentally responsible and show respect for the environment.

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.

The Nominated Supervisor will:

- Ensure the Service joins a preferred provider E.G: the NSW Early Childhood Environmental Education Network to liaise with other education and care services and keep up to date on practices and ideas for sustainability.

- Encourage Educators, families and children to engage in innovative practices and appreciate the wonder of the natural world while protecting the planet for future generations.

- Educators will make sustainable practices a part of the daily routine. These include:
  a) Recycling
  b) Gardening
  c) Energy conservation
  d) Water conservation
  e) Sustainable equipment purchases

- Include Sustainability information in each Newsletter for families.

Educators will:

- Recycling is a part of the everyday practices at The Australian International Islamic College Kindy. Recycling containers will be provided throughout the Service to encourage Educators to role model sustainable practices.

- Educators will discuss sustainable practices with the children as part of the Service’s curriculum and it will be evident in the program. Idea sharing will be encouraged between the staff, children and families, i.e.; sustainable ideas, implementation and resources. This can be done at parent meetings, through emails, newsletters and conversations.
• A worm farm is part of our plan for the outdoor environment and will be used to reduce food waste in the Service. Children will be encouraged to place food scraps into separate containers for use in the worm farm. Educators will discuss with the children what worms can eat and what foods can be composted. The children will be involved in maintaining the worm farm as part of our program.

• Educators will role model energy and water conservation practices, for example; turning off lights and air-conditioning when a room is not in use, emptying water play containers onto garden areas, air drying laundry and soaking paint equipment.

• Educators will aim to purchase equipment that is eco-friendly where possible. Staff will reduce the amount of plastic and disposable equipment they purchase and aim to select materials that are made of natural materials and fibres.

• Educators will think about the Service’s practices and how the Service can become more sustainable. ‘Reduce, re-use and recycle’ will become everyday mantra and practice for both children and Educators to help build lifelong attitudes towards sustainable practices.

• Provide information to families on sustainable practices that are implemented at the education and care service and encourage the application of these practices in the home environment.

• Use local Council and Government departments as sources of information on sustainable practices used in the local community. They will liaise with the Council and Government departments for possible grants available to put in place water and energy conservation practices in the education and care service. These may include water tanks, grey water systems, converting toilet cisterns to dual flush and converting to water saving taps.

• Seek family involvement regarding ideas and projects regarding Sustainability.

This policy was made with consideration to Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011, National Quality Standard and the Early Years Learning Framework, NSW Department of Environment and Heritage, NSW Department of Environment and Heritage and Early Childhood Environmental Education Network.

Date that the policy was last updated or revised: January 2015

19/02/2015

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