

Sustainability Management Plan

What is sustainability?

Sustainability is often thought about in terms of the environment including reducing waste, minimising consumption and protecting and conserving wildlife and natural habitats. However, it can also be thought of as helping to meet our needs now without negatively impacting on our future generations to come.

At Elizabeth North Preschool and Occasional Care, we believe in developing and embedding sustainable practices where possible and discussing with children the role in which they can play to help preserve our environment and adopt similar practices at home.

How can we implement sustainable practices at preschool and occasional care?

There are a number of ways in which we can be more environmentally responsible and help to educate children to develop sustainable practices. Children and educators will be encouraged to engage in the following sustainable practices where appropriate:

- Turning lights off when not in use
- Using the compost bin for food scraps
- Recycling paper and plastic containers (reusing boxes etc for craft experiences or box construction)
- Planting fruits and vegetables to use for cooking in preschool and watering the garden when needed
- Opening a window instead of turning on the air conditioning
- Role modelling our own practices to children to follow eg. Turning off taps and reminding children to do the same
- Going Green when cleaning (using bi carb soda and vinegar instead of chemicals that are harmful to the environment) and offering children the choice if they would like to help clean tables etc
- Developing a Worm Farm
- Using natural resources and loose parts for play where possible.

Our sustainable practices are not limited to list above. Families are always welcomed to suggest other alternatives that they follow at home and they are also invited to add to our compost bin at preschool.

As educators, we will strive to implement and embed sustainable practices in our actions and philosophy at preschool and occasional care in order to develop children's understanding and the role that they have in protecting our environment and the resources it provides, for years to come.

