

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.

POLICY STATEMENT

At Arabanoo we believe our educators, along with children and young people have an important role to play in the creation and promotion of sustainable communities. As part of our program, we foster a holistic approach to sustainability that encompasses environmental, social and economic dimensions. Our aim is to promote practices that meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

We believe that sustainability should be embedded into the Service program and philosophy rather than a theme or subject that is taught.

VALUES

- Arabanoo is committed to:
Promoting respect for, and an appreciation of, the natural environment within the service.
- Ensuring that educators and staff engage in sustainable practices during the operation of the service, such as conserving resources, reducing waste, and promoting recycling and reuse.
- Fostering children and young people's capacity to understand and respect the interdependence between people, plants, animals, and the land.
- Addressing issues of social justice and equity, respect for diversity and inclusion, active citizenship, and a sense of community.
- Ensuring fair and equitable access to resources for all children and families.
- Promoting the conservation of resources, reducing consumption and waste, and encouraging sustainable purchasing practices.

DEFINITION

Arabanoo follows the My Time Our Place Learning Framework which defines sustainability as three dimensional including, environmental, social and economic. The Framework defines this as follows:

Sustainability: seeking to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the needs of future generations (Brundtland Report 1987). Contemporary understandings of sustainability spans environmental, social and economic dimensions.

Environmental sustainability focuses on helping children and young people to recognise they are part of ecosystems and have a role to play in preserving, protecting and improving the environment.

Social sustainability addresses issues of social justice and equity, respect for diversity and inclusion, active citizenship and sense of community.

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Economic sustainability focuses on fair and equitable access to resources, conserving resources and reducing consumption and waste.

-My Time Our Place P.68

CONSIDERATIONS:

Education and Care Services National Regulations	National Quality Standard	Other Service policies/documentation	Other
103, 105, 106, 109, 110, 113, 168	3.3.1, 3.3.2, 4.2.1, 4.2.3, 5.2.3, 6.1, 7.1.1, 7.2.1	Staffing Policy Interactions with Children Policy My Time Our Place Framework for School Age Care in Australia	NSW Department of Environment and Heritage, NSW Department of Environment and Heritage and Early Childhood Environmental Education Network.

ENDORSEMENT BY THE SERVICE:

Approval date: Sept 2024

Date for Review: Sept 2026

Policy History

Version	Date reviewed/written	Who by	Area changed	Changes made	Authorisation
1.0	4 Sept 2018	Rowan Friend	n/a	n/a	10 Sept 2018 - Jane Ellis
2.0	09 April 2019	Rowan Friend, Anita Pozo-Jones & Kiri Combi	Other Service policies/documentation Standards	Added Staffing Policy Interactions with the children Policy Updated to the new NQS	Kate Sellick – 8 May 2019
3.0	July 2024	KW OSHC Consulting	Policy Statement & Definitions	Updated policy statement and definitions to align with MTOP V2.0	3 Sept 2024 – Rowan Friend

Sustainability Procedure

PROCEDURE

The Nominated Supervisor will:

Engage and Stay Informed

- Ensure the Service joins a preferred provider such as the NSW Early Childhood Environmental Education Network, liaises with other education and care services, and stays updated on sustainable practices and ideas.

Promote Sustainable Practices

- Encourage Educators, families, children, young people, and the school community to engage in innovative practices, appreciate their surroundings, and protect the natural world for future generations.

Integrate Sustainability into Daily Routines

- Make sustainable practices a part of the daily routine, including:
 - Recycling
 - Gardening
 - Energy conservation
 - Water conservation
 - Sustainable equipment purchases

Communicate with Families

- Include Sustainability information in each newsletter for families.
- Where relevant, review policies and procedures within the Service to find more sustainable outcomes. (For example; Using hand dryers or washers instead of paper towels).

Reduce Paper Usage

- Use electronic communication for newsletters, billing and, other correspondence to reduce paper use within the office and in each room.

Source Sustainable Resources

- Source resources and materials from council clean-ups and community donations.
- Use local Council and Government departments as sources of information on sustainable practices used in the local community. Liaise with these entities for possible grants to put in implement water and energy conservation practices in the service (e.g., water tanks, grey water systems, dual-flush toilet cisterns, water-saving taps).

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Educators will:

Recycle Daily

- Make recycling a part of everyday practices, with recycling containers provided throughout the Service to encourage role modelling of sustainable practices.
- Encourage children to recycle paper and rubbish within their rooms, at home and when in the wider community.
- Think about the Service's practices and how to become more sustainable. Make 'reduce, reuse, recycle' an everyday mantra and practice for both children and educators to build lifelong attitudes towards sustainability.

Integrate Sustainability into the Curriculum

- Discuss sustainable practices with children as part of the Service's curriculum, evident in the program. Encourage idea sharing among staff, children and families, through parent meetings, newsletters, and conversations.

Promote Environmental Stewardship

- Educate children to care for plants and our waterways e.g., recycling water and caring for vegetable and herb gardens within the service.
- Use the worm farm as part of our outdoor environment to reduce food waste. Encourage children to place food scraps into separate containers for the worm farm, discussing with them what worms can eat and what foods can be composted. Involve children in maintaining the worm farm as part of the program.

Model Energy and Water Conservation

- Role model energy and water conservation practices, e.g., turning off lights and air-conditioning when not in use, emptying water play containers onto garden areas, air drying laundry, and soaking paint equipment.

Purchase Eco-Friendly Equipment

- Aim to purchase eco-friendly equipment where possible, reduce the amount of plastic and disposable equipment and select materials that are made of natural materials and fibres.

Engage Families

- Provide families with information on sustainable practices implemented at Arabanoo and encourage these practices in the home environment.
- Seek family involvement in ideas and projects related to Sustainability.

Sustainability Procedure

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103, 105, 106, 109, 110, 113, 168	6.1, 6.1.2, 3.2, 3.2.1, 3.2.2 7.1.1, 7.2.1	Staffing Policy Interactions with the children Policy	NSW Department of Environment and Heritage, NSW Department of Environment and Heritage and Early Childhood Environmental Education Network.

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3.0	July 2024	KW OSHC Consulting	Definitions	Added key terms used throughout procedure	3 Sept 2024 – Rowan Friend
			Procedure	Readability improved	
				Reference My Time Our Place V2.0 – 3 dimensions of sustainability	