



Marton Activity Centre

MAC Policy

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

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Quality Area	: MACQA3
Approved By	: Management
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Marton Activity Centre encourages the awareness of environmental responsibility and implement practices that contribute to a sustainable future. Children are supported to become environmentally responsible and show respect for the environment. We practice and promote sustainability through reducing waste, minimising consumption, and protecting and conserving wildlife and natural habitats.

POLICY STATEMENT

Marton Activity Centre aims to increase the awareness of environmental responsibility within the service. We aim to make our practices eco-friendly and involve all children, families and educators. Sustainability is embedded in both our philosophy and programme to give an awareness of the need to protect the planet and its future for generations to come.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the children, families, staff, management and visitors of Marton Activity Centre.

PROCEDURES

- The centre will make the following a part of their daily routine:
 - Promote and teach recycling
 - Water conservation
 - Energy conservation

- Gardening
 - Worm farming
 - Composting
 - Purchasing sustainable equipment
 - Using recycled material for craft
 - Sustainability to be included in newsletters
 - Stingless Bee's
 - Sustainability to be an item on meeting agendas and relate to the Quality Improvement Plan
 - Maintaining a sustainability checklist
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- Review procedures and policies regularly to make them more sustainable.
 - Reduce paper by considering electronic newsletter, invoices, etc.
 - Keep up to date with local council and government department regarding information on sustainable practices in your local community. Look for grants that allow us to improve water and energy conservation.
 - Educators to role model good sustainable practices.
 - We aim to use recycled materials as containers instead of using new plastic containers.
 - We aim to use recycled food containers as food storage.
 - Encourage children to recycle paper into green recycling bin.
 - "Reduce, reuse and recycle" will be displayed at the centre and on bins and will be a natural process for all concerned. Recycling numbers will be taught to children.
 - Sustainability should be embedded into the program. Discuss with the children and families. Ask the children and families if they have any ideas to improve sustainability of the centre. Email information to families on sustainability and activities they may do with their children at home.
 - Established a garden, a worm farm, stingless bee hive, and a compost bin. Discuss with the children how it all works and why we need to do this. The children can help with the compost, worm farm and watering garden when interested. Food scraps will be taken to either worm farm or compost bin. Children to put their name down on list themselves.
 - Get the children to be in charge of the Sustainability Checklist.
 - Reduce the amount of plastic and disposable equipment at the centre and aim to purchase materials made from natural fibres when possible.
 - Maintain "Sustainability" book at MAC with photos and ideas, which show our sustainability journey at MAC. Children can be responsible for updating and adding to the book.
 - We aim to do a weekly outdoor clean that will incorporate gardening as part of our program.
 - We aim to use our MAC garden to produce food for centre use.

CONSIDERATIONS

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS (NQS)

Quality Area 3: Physical Environment		
3.2	Use	The service environment is inclusive, promotes competence & supports exploration & play-based learning.
3.2.1	Inclusive Environment	Outdoor & Indoor spaces are organised & adapted to support every child's participation & to engage every child in quality experiences in both built & natural environments.
3.2.2	Resource' support play-based learning.	Resources, materials & equipment allow for multiple uses, are sufficient in number, & enable every child to engage in play-based learning.
3.2.3	Environmentally responsible	The service cares for the environment & supports children to become environmentally responsible.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS AND NATIONAL LAW

Education and Care Services National Regulations and National law NSW		
Reg	113	Outdoor space - natural environment

SOURCE

My Time, Our Place
Revised National Quality Standards.
Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority

SERVICE POLICIES/ DOCUMENTATION

Policies	Documents
Physical Environment.	Parent Handbook
	Staff Handbook