



Sustainability

How does your service take an active role in caring for the environment?

Is it embedded into everyday practice?

Why is this important?

Sustainability is important because the choices that we make and the actions that we take today will affect the future, for our children, and our children's children.

Education in sustainability is vital!

We need to make sound decisions now in order to avoid limiting the choices of generations to come.

How can we do this to ensure that sustainability is embedded into our practice?

Through education and continuous learning we can ensure that sustainable practices become present in the everyday.

Sustainability is often thought about in terms of environmental sustainability – reducing waste, minimising consumption, conserving energy, reducing water consumption and protecting and conserving wildlife and natural habitats.

These are all important aspects of being sustainable, however we can aim to go beyond this when we educate all involved, children, families, educators and community.

Today's young children represent future generations and this makes it important for us, as educators, to help them realise the significance of caring for and protecting their environment.

Rather than only educating children about the environment, we can go further and educate them in and for the environment.

What we aim to achieve with element 3.2.3

The service cares for the environment and supports children to become environmentally responsible

Through education for sustainable living, we gain knowledge, skills, and values to address the environmental and social challenges of the coming decades. We can begin to understand the interconnectedness of human and natural systems, and develop the capacity to apply this understanding so that human communities and natural ecosystems may thrive. 'Children develop positive attitudes and values by engaging in sustainable practices, watching adults around them model sustainable practices and working together with educators to show care and appreciation for the natural environment.' (Hughes, 2007)

Why the use of natural resources to enhance children's learning and development?

"Materials enhance learning when they reflect what is natural...Environments and resources can also highlight our responsibilities for a sustainable future and promote children's understanding about their responsibility to care for the environment. They can foster hope, wonder and knowledge about the natural world."

(DEEWR, 2009. pg. 16)

How are you demonstrating this in your service?

As we educate for sustainability, we also empower children and adults with the opportunity to take responsibility for their world.

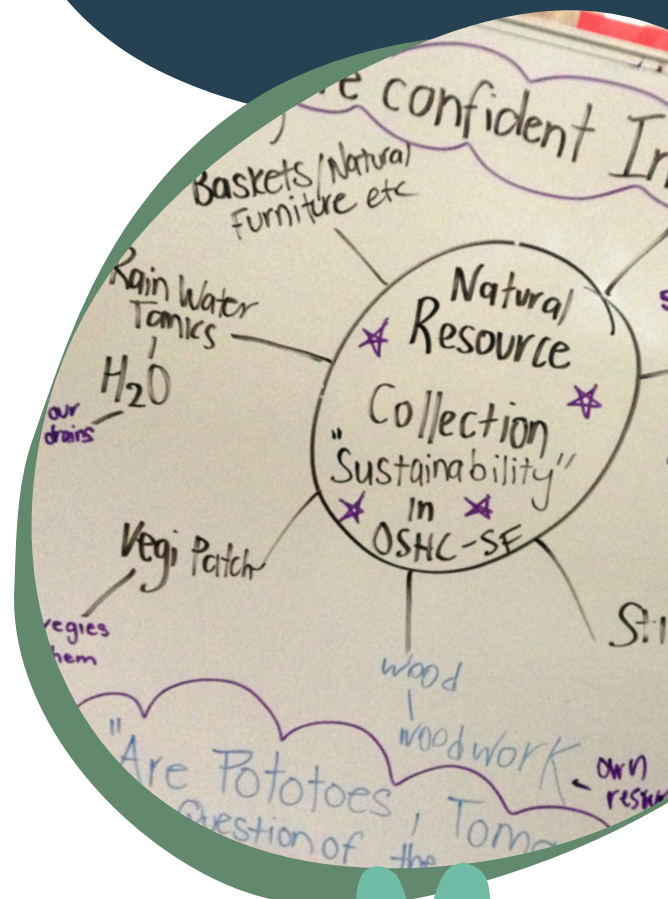
Using natural resources

How does your service support play in the natural environment? Is it a place full of texture, colour, sound, fragrances, surprise, a place where children can challenge themselves naturally, where they can choose and manage their own risks, where they can demonstrate their skills as risk assessors?

Encouraging children to interact with the natural environment develops respect and responsibility towards nature.

"...early childhood educators have the responsibility to make education for sustainable development a part of everyday practice – not merely a separate subject or theme to be considered for a given time, but an integral part of curriculum, underpinning daily practice."

(Kinsella, R. p. 3)



Professional Learning with Gowrie SA

- Embedding sustainability into practice
- Nature play, More than just a trend
- Get outside and get sustainable!

These sessions are often scheduled in the [professional learning events](#) calendar, and can also be delivered at your service.

Call Gowrie SA on (08 8234 5219 to find out more.