



Sustainable Steps For Bumper Bears

This booklet is designed to assist and support educators and community members to understand our ideas, philosophy and future hope for our centre.

At Bumper Bears, we are working towards a sustainable future and although this is an evolving process, we are implementing small changes which are making a big difference.

Educating children about the importance of caring for our planet, is a large part of our program, and the children are active participants in the process.

Our children are our future and if we can teach them a few tips and lifestyle choices which will help save the planet, we will have done something positive in our time here at Bumper Bears. This links to Quality Area 3 of the National Quality Standards; ***Standard 3.3 “The service takes an active role in caring for it’s environment and contributes to a sustainable future”.***

What can we do to make a difference?

REDUCE WASTE

Developing processes such as reducing waste through recycling waste into the compost bins, recycling paper bins and the use of plastic bags being lessened are all ways to help solve waste issues in the centre.

What can be recycled into the compost heap?

- Fruits
- Vegetables
- Cardboard
- Lawn clippings
- Newspaper
- Dead leaves
- Felt from your dryer



TURNING LIGHTS OFF in areas where they are not needed is probably one of the fastest and easiest ways to reduce power consumption in the centre. Using the clothes line instead of the dryer, turning off all computers and printers overnight will also help.

RECYCLED MATERIALS

Using recycled materials in the centre is a good way to teach children the importance of re-using items, rather than throwing them away. We use boxes, egg cartons, bottles, containers, lids, etc in our artwork and we continue to discover ways to re-use items.

Even using re-cycled furniture and accessories help to make the centre have a more homely feeling to it and with natural woven baskets and boxes, wooden containers, glass jars, all help to make the room aesthetically pleasing to children and Educators.

The centre has a “recycling Station” in the foyer where families can bring in items we need for craft and for other uses.

COMPOSTING

Everyday, we have food waste at the centre which we recycle into compost. The children place their food scraps into the compost bin on a regular basis and they help to turn the bin (when they can as it is heavy).

This compost can be used on the gardens in the centre and this will help maintain good quality soil and give nutrients to the plants. This is a free fertiliser and in using this, we are helping the environment by recycling the unused food scraps.



WORM FARMING

We have a worm farm in the foyer (It needs to be in a shaded spot where it can be fed and watered regularly). We use the castings from the worm farm as fertiliser on our gardens and we will also be using the compost from the bottom tray as soon as it is ready. This is an amazing fertiliser for the gardens, and again, it is free. When we have extra castings from the worm farm, we give it away to Educators and families to use on their own gardens as well.



IMPROVE OUR ENVIRONMENTS

Growing our own produce at the centre is something we are just starting, but it is an area we would like to develop more through a community garden, where families can take what they need and we can develop a group of people who care for it. The vegetable patches in the playgrounds are changing and developing all the time with the change of seasons, produce being eaten by children, families .

When we grow crops, we place them in the foyer to take for free or families can make a gold coin donation, to help us buy more seedlings

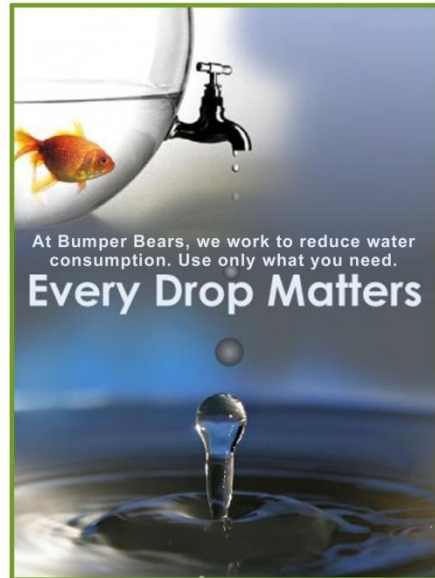


REDUCE WATER CONSUMPTION

Educating children and adults about how to reduce water waste through having half-flush signs on toilets, advertising signs near taps to remind people to report drips or turn taps off properly etc are all ways in which we can help.

Pouring left of water from meal times onto plants or gardens, purchasing a water tank for watering plants and using in water play activities will also assist in better water consumption across the centre.

Encouraging children and Educators to use the "Half-flush" option on the toilet will also help reduce the amount of water we use.



Use half flush
only





CLOSE WINDOWS AND DOORS WHILE USING AIR CONDITIONING

When air conditioners are on, ALL windows and doors must be closed to help the air conditioner run effectively. Running the air conditioners in the most effective way (at 24 degrees), helps to reduce the amount of electricity they are drawing, which in turn, helps the environment.

Don't run the air conditioning when you don't need to, only use it when absolutely necessary. During other times, open the windows and let the fresh air in.

Fans and Air conditioning should not be on together at the same time, please use one or the other.

ENERGY EFFICIENT PRODUCTS

When purchasing washing machines, air conditioners, dryers, ovens etc, we aim to buy products which have a good energy efficiency rating. These are checked and updated as needed to ensure that we are not wasting power at the centre.

OUR IDEAL PLAYSPACES

Would be dominated by natural elements, e.g. trees, shrubs, sand, soil, flowers; invites open-ended interaction, exploration, and manipulation;

- provides opportunities for risk-taking, spontaneity and discovery;
- is accessible at all times and in all weathers;
- promotes a sense of independence for children and adults;
- contains multiple 'habitats' within the overall space;
- promotes a sense of wonder; is always evolving and changing with the seasons
- Gives children a natural space to play in, discover, explore and care for
- It would be a place Educators would be proud of and would maintain so it is aesthetically pleasing to all who use it.

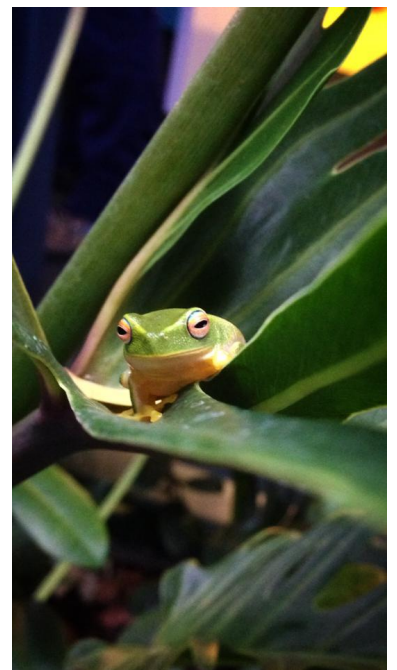


Frog Habitat



We have created spaces for frog breeding and habitats. Over the last four years, we have had a family of Graceful tree frogs come back to our foyer garden. In 2013, we created a water feature/pond and a mist sprinkler system to enhance this habitat and hopefully keep the frogs coming back to this area. Frogs should not be picked up by people, unless their hands have been rinsed and remain wet.

RESPECT and PROTECT





What can we do to save the planet??

We have adopted an Orangutan, named Gokong. In doing this, our sponsorship assists Orangutan populations and gives jobs to local people in Indonesia. Part of the money assists with re-forestation of the habitat, medical supplies and food and day to day care and attention until they are strong enough to be released back into the wild. We are teaching the children about the different parts of the world in which Gokong and the other Orangutans in the program live. We are continually raising awareness of their plight through our centre facebook page, we have helped to fund raise for people to go on e trek to the area and we hope to hear back or receive some photos from the trip. We are reducing our consumption of Palm oil products and are advertising these to families to continue to educate people about the importance of the Orangutan habitats.



We are all responsible for saving the planet.

