



Educational Leader

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

Looking at the element in detail - A service reviewed what the NQF Guide said about element 3.2.3 and it includes:

- teaching children about their responsibility to respect and care for the natural environment in a sustainable way and
- implementing sustainable practices at the Service.

In a [2018 blog](#) ACECQA references “[Inspiring environmentally responsible preschool children through the implementation of the National Quality Framework](#)’ (2017) by Krista Pollock, Jane Warren and Peter Anderson from the University of Wollongong. They proposed three key ways to support children to be environmentally responsible.

1. Involve children authentically

Educators support children to explore their world, ask questions, express ideas and learn from their mistakes.

2. Collaborate with families

The researchers suggest encouraging families ‘to reflect on their own early childhood experiences with, and connections to, the natural environment’. Drawing on home experiences and culturally-valued knowledge can build communication and connection between home and service practice.

3. Engage in critical reflection

Reflect on your own understanding of environmental responsibility and sustainability and how this has been informed.

Do educators use these approaches to help embed sustainable learning? How could this be implemented or improved?

The following three videos are from ACECQA’s former NQS Professional Learning Program may also help provide inspiration and ideas:

- [Embedding Sustainable Practices video – part 1 of 3](#)
- [Embedding Sustainable Practices video – part 2 of 3](#)
- [Embedding Sustainable Practices video – part 3 of 3](#)

What might you change, do or suggest after watching the videos?

There are lots of resources available to support educators in teaching children about caring for the environment. Arguably the most well-known is **Climbing the Little Green Steps** – a Manual with various information and ideas to support sustainability in early childhood Services. Other resources include those from State Environmental networks and Government Departments like:

- the [NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment](#) and [NSW Department of Education](#), which may help inform learning activities and experiences appropriate for early childhood
- [NSW Early Childhood Environmental Education Network](#) which supports early childhood services in NSW to promote environmentally sustainable education and practices. Free online events may be open to educators from other States
- See also [Planet Ark](#) and [Getting Started with Sustainability in Schools](#)

Environmental Sustainability Policy

Educators will involve children in activities which help them appreciate, care for and increase their understanding of sustainability and natural and man-made environments. Some of the ways they may do this include:

- involving children in environmental activities like gardening, nature walks, composting, caring for worm farms
- providing natural materials like wood, stone, sand, plants and recycled materials
- monitoring usage of electricity, gas, water and amount of rubbish going to landfill
- promoting life skills like growing, harvesting, and cooking food
- using environmentally targeted resource kits and information to tailor relevant activities
- collaborating with families and community groups with expertise in environmental issues eg bush care groups
- acknowledging and celebrating environmental awareness events like Clean Up Australia Day.

Educator and Management Policy

Contains:

- Code of Conduct which we'll cover in Week 37
- Procedures if staff wish to babysit outside work hours
- Management responsibilities
- Procedures for managing visitors
- Communication procedures including procedures for meetings and business communications
- Performance development and performance management guidelines
- Work health and safety issues – bullying, harassment and discrimination, stress management
- Orientation procedures for new or returning staff
- Procedures for managing students and volunteers.

Do you have any feedback or comments about these policies? Please include below.

Educator's Name	Educator's Signature