

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

## Section 1. Early career educator



When you become an educator, it's important to support children to become environmentally responsible

You must know

What could potentially go wrong if educators didn't do the above? If educators don't follow these principles, a few things could go wrong:

**Lack of environmental awareness:** Children may not develop an understanding of the importance of environmental responsibility or the consequences of unsustainable practices.

**Disconnected from nature:** Without exposure to nature and hands-on experiences, children may become disconnected from the natural world, leading to a decreased sense of environmental stewardship.

**Limited problem-solving skills:** Without opportunities to explore environmental challenges and develop solutions, children may lack the critical thinking skills necessary to address future environmental issues.

**Missed learning opportunities:** Environmental education provides valuable interdisciplinary learning opportunities. Without incorporating sustainability into the curriculum, children may miss out on important knowledge and skills.

**Neglected responsibility:** If educators don't prioritise teaching and modelling environmentally responsible behaviours, children may not develop a sense of personal responsibility towards the environment, hindering the development of sustainable habits and practices.



It's very important to make sure you and the service cares for the environment and supports children to become environmentally responsible.

You must practice

Here are five points to consider:

**Provide hands-on experiences:** Offer opportunities for children to engage with nature, explore the

environment, and participate in sustainable practices such as recycling and gardening.

**Model sustainable behaviours:** Demonstrate environmentally responsible actions like conserving energy, reducing waste, and respecting nature. Children learn by observing and imitating, so your actions can have a significant impact.

**Encourage a sense of connection:** Help children develop an appreciation for the natural world and understand their role in caring for it. Encourage empathy towards plants, animals, and the environment, emphasising the interdependence between all living things.

**Incorporate environmental education:** Integrate lessons and activities that promote environmental awareness and sustainability into the curriculum. Teach about ecosystems, conservation, and the impact of human activities on the environment.

**Encourage critical thinking:** Engage children in discussions about environmental issues and encourage them to think critically about potential solutions. Empower them to ask questions, explore possibilities, and develop their own ideas for positive change.



Educators have explored electric energy with children, researching its workings and sustainable consumption. After a morning walk, Mr. Jose showed the children a "WIND TURBINE MODEL" and discussed different types of turbines, including the Horizontal-axis and Vertical-axis designs. Audrey, Tate, Arthur, Corey, Cody, and Kate used technology to learn about wind turbines, understanding how they generate electricity and distribute it to homes. Wind turns the

turbine blades, activating gears that spin the shaft connected to a generator. The generated electricity travels through cables and transformers before reaching our homes. This renewable energy is known as wind energy.

After reading these points, which one(s) do you think you doing well? Describe your practice in detail.

After reading these points, which one(s) do you think you need to work on? Describe how you could improve your practice.

**Here are some examples of things educators could say to children to help them understand:**

**Provide hands-on experiences:**

"Today, we're going to plant seeds in our garden and watch them grow. This helps us learn how to take care of plants and contribute to a healthier environment."

"Let's go on a nature scavenger hunt! We'll explore the yard and find different natural materials like leaves, rocks, and sticks. Later, we can discuss how these materials can be reused or recycled."

**Model sustainable behaviours:**

"Look, everyone! I'm turning off the lights when we leave the room to save energy. It's important to

remember to conserve electricity and reduce our carbon footprint."

"Instead of throwing away this plastic bottle, let's recycle it. Recycling helps protect our planet by reducing waste and conserving resources."

**Encourage a sense of connection:**

"Did you know that plants give us oxygen to breathe? They rely on us to take care of them, just like we rely on them. Let's water the plants and make sure they have enough sunlight."

"When we clean up litter at the park, we're showing respect for nature and the animals that live here. Let's work together to keep our environment clean and safe for everyone."

**Incorporate environmental education:**

"Today, we're learning about different habitats and the animals that live there. We'll discuss how human activities can affect these habitats and what we can do to protect them."

"In our science lesson, we'll be exploring the water cycle and how important it is for our planet. We'll also talk about ways we can conserve water in our daily lives."

**Encourage critical thinking:**

"What do you think we can do to reduce plastic waste? Let's brainstorm ideas and come up with a plan to use fewer single-use plastics."

"We've been learning about air pollution. How do you think it affects our health and the environment? Let's discuss the potential solutions to reduce air pollution in our community."



After morning tea, Miss Anu and Miss Sophie took the children outside to explore the composting bin. They brought leftover watermelons from the morning tea and let the children add them to the bin as food for the worms.