



## ENVIRONMENT, PLAY AND LEARNING POLICY

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Drafted by	Nicole Crook	Approved by Board on	Feb 2018
Responsible person	Nicole Crook	Scheduled review date	Feb 2019

### INTRODUCTION

This policy ensures that Patersonia has effective procedures to ensure that all children attending Patersonia have access to physical play (National Quality Standard 2.2), have knowledge of the natural environment, experience the outdoors and learn about how they can work towards helping sustain our environment (National Quality Standard 3.3).

### PURPOSE

The primary objective of this document is to set the policy and procedures relating to the outdoor environment, both play and learning, as a part of the Patersonia Early Learning program.

### POLICY

Educators at Patersonia will provide programmes that include, but are not limited to:

- Allow children access to natural and open spaces for physical play.
  - These will be outdoor whenever possible.
  - During wet weather, severe cold, or extreme heat, educators will ensure that children still have the ability to participate in physical activity in an appropriate setting.
- Allow for participation in play in outdoor areas
  - Where the service does not have access to its own outdoor area, daily outings to the local park, oval, or field will be provided with the exception of extreme weather conditions.
  - These outings will allow children to explore the environment around them, discuss changes brought about by seasons, weather, manmade alterations, growth or decay, flora and fauna.
  - These outings may lead to further activities, including craft, drama, gardening, photography.
- Allow for gardening, both indoor and outdoor plants
  - These may be grown in small pots, Styrofoam boxes, planters or gardens.

- Children may grow plants of their choice, but may have cactus, vegetables, grasses, flowers.
- Allow for recycling and compost
  - This may be food scraps composted for the garden or sent home with a child/ educators who has goats, chickens, horses, pigs, cows etc. Children can discuss this, have photographs of the animals to receive the scraps.
  - This may be paper, plastics, cans and rubbish separated before placed in garbage bins. Discussions should be had on why we want to do this.
  - This may be craft scraps. Do not throw out left over items from craft activities, but recycle them for other activities.
  - This may be newspapers. The service may have newspapers that the children can read, or may ask for papers to be brought in from home. These can be used for many forms of craft and for some group games also.
- Allow for craft
  - This may be drawings paintings, photography, drama, music, drawings, collage, sand art, etc
  - This may be about the world around them, depicting the world around them or using items from the world around them.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

### 1. The Board will:

- Regularly review this policy in line with the Policy Review Schedule and any relevant change in legislation or standard practice.

### 2. The Business Manager will:

- Ensure that the induction process includes training in this policy.
- Where appropriate, delegate responsibility for compliance to officers with responsibility for particular sections.
- Oversee the performance of subordinate officers in these matters.
- Review and report to the Board, as appropriate, on the effectiveness of the management systems.
- Analyse material breaches and identified compliance system weaknesses for systematic trends and ensure that any adverse trends are addressed.
- Promote a culture of effective policy compliance across the organisation.

### 3. All staff and volunteers at all levels will:

- Ensure that they are aware of the organisation's policy and undertake actions consistent with it when both of and of site.
- Where appropriate, suggest ways in which practices, systems and procedures could be improved so as to improve the policy.

## **PROCESSES**

The Business Manager will review and change the organisation's procedures to ensure that these are in accordance with the principles expressed in this policy.

Staff and volunteers will follow these procedures.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Education and Care Services National Law 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2010 and 2014 Update (r73, 113)

National Quality Standards (1.1, 1.2, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 5)

Statement of Philosophy

Being, Belonging, Becoming

Overall Program Evaluation Form