



Environmental Sustainability Policy

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Policy Statement

At Kiddie Capers Childcare we wish to support children to learn about sustainable practices and foster respect and care for the living and non-living environment.

Children are able to develop positive attitudes and values about sustainable practices by exploring solutions to environmental issues, learning about the world around them and how to protect it and watching adults role model sustainable practices.

Procedures

Kiddie Capers Childcare promotes an open-ended, holistic curriculum which explores and embeds ideas, teaching, nurturing and practices for environmental sustainability and helps our children to understand the interdependence between people and the environment by:

- Helping children to explore nature and understand about it through daily activities, discussions, examples and play based learning.
- Supporting children to experience the natural environment through the use of natural materials like wood, stone, sand and recycled materials in their everyday play, activities and when outdoors.
- Supporting the environment by learning how to grow and nurture plants in the nursery gardens and discovering all about the food cycle by growing, harvesting and where possible preparing food to share at snack time and teatime or take home to enjoy with their family
- Helping children to learn about water conservation, energy efficiency and waste reduction through play-based activities, adult interactions and role modelling e.g. ensuring taps are turned off after use.
- Holding Forest school sessions to support their learning about the natural environment and what they see in the local area, building their knowledge and understanding on caring for and looking after the world around them and the importance of this and how they can do this.
- Reducing our single use plastic by using and encouraging parents to use reuseable lunchboxes/packaging/ water bottles.
- Encourage parents to use reuseable bags for soiled clothing.
- Encouraging parents, children and staff where possible to regularly walk to or from nursery, or cycle to raise the awareness and understanding of easy ways to care for the planet.
- Developing our recycling areas within our settings and encouraging children to learn about how to do this and why and then share a recycling ethos in their own home environment, and to talk about this.

As Company we will embed sustainability into all aspects of our Nursery operations including:

- Recycling materials for art and creative activities and encouraging parents to bring in their recycling materials for the same use.
- Reducing our single use plastic by encouraging staff and visitors to use reuseable lunchboxes/ packaging/ water bottles.
- Considering our carbon footprint when purchasing materials – and researching and using suppliers who have a good carbon footprint and ethical environmental practices.
- Shopping locally where possible.
- Turning off equipment and lights when not in use and using energy saving light bulbs.
- Not leaving equipment on standby.
- Unplugging/ Turning off all equipment that is able to be at the end of its use/the day.
- Using energy saving wash cycles on the washing machine and dishwasher.
- Hanging washing out to dry and using clothes horses rather than tumble dryers where possible.
- Using the food waste bins and donating surplus food supplies to the food bank.
- Incorporating water-wise strategies such as ensuring taps are turned off and leaks fixed.
- Recycling water from any water play to water plants outside
- Using food that we have grown where possible at snack times and tea times, or send home for families to enjoy

By working together with all of our children, parents, partners and staff it will help to ensure our environment can be more sustainable. By teaching and nurturing our children's understanding about the world we live in and the impacts of what we can do to help care for and protect it, this in turn will help to make the world a better place for them to grow up in. We regularly review our setting's impact on the environment to ensure we consistently put procedures in place to counteract any impact we may be having.

