The Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative (AuSSI-SA) is encouraging all preschools and schools to become more sustainable. Sustainability means creating a fairer world for all. This involves reducing the use of resources such as energy and water, and improving biodiversity to support native plants and animals. It also means considering the needs of and supporting other people in the world.

Your children’s opinions about your preschool’s sustainability efforts and what you should do next are an important dimension of the total ‘picture’. Please ask the children to indicate their agreement to the statements below. The equivalent adult terms that your children may not understand are included in brackets as guidance for you. You may still need to change some of the language or add concrete examples to reflect the experiences and knowledge of your children. Documenting or recording the children’s answers will indicate the majority view on what is currently happening and the priorities for further development. It can assist in identifying the depth of their understanding, and guide your learning program.

✓ = Agree \( \star = \text{Wish it would happen} \)

### Starting
- We talk about what is important to us.
- We are asked what we would like in our preschool (both indoors and outside) to play with and learn about.
- Visitors talk to us about caring for the preschool, both indoors and outside.
- We learn about caring for the preschool/Australia/planet (environment).
- There are lots of places in the preschool and near the preschool (community) where we can learn to care for the preschool/Australia/planet (environment).
- We talk about what sort of world (community) we want to live in.
- We can teach others how to care for the preschool/Australia/planet (environment).

### Challenging
*Explain sustainability to the children. Illustrate aspects of sustainability (environmental, social, cultural, and economic) using pictures, books or examples from the preschool to start the discussion.*

- At preschool we talk about sustainability or living more sustainably.
- We want our preschool to become more sustainable.
- We are learning about what is important for sustainability (concerns and needs) in and around our preschool (in our community).
- We talk about sustainability and what we can do (e.g. composting food scraps, caring for plants).
- We do sustainable things like recycling, composting food scraps, caring for plants (actively involved in the centre environment).
- Our preschool shares information and runs activities with families about living sustainably.
- The preschool staff ask us for ideas to be more sustainable.
- We have been shown our Site Environment Management Plan.
Committing

☐ We learn with people in other parts of Australia and the world how to live more sustainably.
☐ We are doing sustainability things in the preschool and community such as planting trees, recycling, turning lights off, and raising money for other people or animals.
☐ We share our sustainability learning with our buddy groups and visitors (other preschools and schools).
☐ On celebration days we use plates, knives, forks and cups that we can wash and use again, not ones we throw away.
☐ I want to do more sustainability things at home like caring for plants, growing tomatoes.
☐ If we have a good idea we can make it happen.

Transforming

☐ My family and I are doing more sustainability things at home and in other places, like sometimes walking instead of using the car, and trying to not to buy items in the shop with lots of packaging.
☐ My family and I try to encourage (influence) our friends and family (other people) to do more sustainability things like recycling.
☐ My family recycles rubbish, tells me not to waste electricity and water and to be kind to other people, animals and plants.
☐ I go to farmers’ markets with my family.
☐ My family talks about not needing more ‘stuff’ when I want to buy things at the shops.
☐ My family cares for the planet.

Comments: