

Case Study

Hawthorndene Kindergarten

Years: Pre-school

School population: 75

Location: Hawthorndene

Source: Cynthia Meredith

A WOW Support Pre-school

Highlights

The kindergarten has a history of community-based environmental initiatives. A substantial fruit and vegetable garden which is supported by the parents is adjacent to the kindergarten.

A Waste Reduction and Recycling Policy outlining the practices observed at the kindergarten is circulated to all families. This document is attached and was developed after attending a WOW Workshop.

What the school says about waste

On the learning outcomes from waste minimisation, Cynthia Meredith reports,

'The children are more aware of the ways they can be involved in helping to care for the environment and are encouraging their parents to do the same.'



The whole kindergarten community is involved in the garden



Wipe out Waste



Waste Systems and Learning

Waste in Curriculum

Explicit teaching about waste occurs around the theme 'Conservation' with children encouraged to talk about recycling at home. A special play about recycling and its importance to the environment was presented to parents at an end of term celebration.

The children help in the fruit and vegetable garden, by planting, fertilising using worm compost and harvesting. The harvested produce is cooked and eaten as part of curriculum studies.

Reducing

Used tissues, food scraps and dead leaves are placed in the worm farm and, when this is full, in the green composting bin, for later use on the garden.

Reusing

All painting paper has previously been used in another context eg architects drawings, old calendars and printers off-cuts. Newspaper is used to cover tables for messy play. Drama boxes are made out of used packaging from medical supplies and old machines are reused for the children to 'tinker' with. Kindergarten events are advertised by reusing modified signs which are laminated to maintain durability. Members of the local community often bring in unwanted items to be used again at kindergarten. Recently old calendars have been made into story books for the children.

Double-sided use of paper is encouraged: faxes and emails are printed on used paper. Envelopes are re-labelled for reuse.

Recycling

A detailed explanation of the recycling practices is outlined in the attached policy. Paper, cardboard and some plastic is recycled through Council kerbside recycle bins, printer and fax cartridges are recycled through 'Go for Green'.

Fruit and vegetable scraps and garden materials are composted in the compost bin and worm farm.

Getting started and Keeping it going

All staff are keen to care for the environment and support recycling by accessing materials for use in children's play activities eg wood, plastic yoghurt containers for paints and old plumbing pipes for play in the sand pit.

Whole School Community

Parents have supported the recycling efforts and bring printer, toner and fax cartridges for recycling through the kindy and were able to bring cardboard for recycling before local kerbside recycling was available at home. Families also assist in caring for the fruit and vegetable garden.



At Hawthorndene Kindergarten everybody is helping to create less waste

We work together to develop better ways to dispose of our unwanted items to ensure the sustainability of our world.

At Hawthorndene Kindergarten we are developing skills to reduce waste.

We are aiming to achieve the following practice:

- ☺ All unwanted items are classified before disposal to determine if they can be reused or recycled.
- ☺ If a member of the kindergarten community, which comprises staff, children and parents is unsure of how to dispose of unwanted items they should consult with someone else to help make an informed decision..

☺ Items can be:

1. Reused: ie junk for making, paper used both sides
2. Fed to worms
3. Recycled in council bin
4. Placed in council waste bin



Hawthorndene
KINDERGARTEN

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WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLE POLICY



Wipe out Waste



At our kindergarten we observe the following practices:

⊗ **Avoid** (new purchases may not be necessary where resources are shared)

⊗ **Reuse**

⊗ **Repair**

⊗ **Recycle**

⊗ **before disposal to landfill**

We all need to use resources wisely

Reuse

Where practical all paper is used on both sides and used envelopes are re-labelled for reuse. Unwanted packaging is used by the children for creative play activities.

Repair

All equipment, which includes curriculum play and office, is monitored to maintain optimum condition. Where practical it is repaired when necessary for continued use.

Recycle

*Items such as clothes, used books, toys, plant cuttings etc are sold at the 'Grace Market Day' (once a term, proceeds support a child in Tanzania),

*used stamps are collected for charity

*used toner, and print cartridges are collected and returned to "Go for Green"

*all other items are recycled where practical in the council recycle bin.

Compost

Some of the organic waste is collected and set aside in a compost bin for later use on the vegetable garden



Worm Farm

The remaining organic waste collected from the residue of fruit time and lunches is fed to the worms and later the worm castings are also used on the kindly garden.

