

At Great Leaps Adventure, we encourage awareness of environmental responsibilities and implement practices that contribute to a sustainable future. All visitors are supported to become environmentally responsible and show respect for the environment. Sustainability is often thought about in terms of environmental sustainability—reducing waste, minimising consumption and protecting and conserving wildlife and natural habitats.

National Quality Standards (NQS)

Quality Area 3: Physical Environment	
3.1	The design and location of the premises is appropriate for the operation of a Service
3.2	The environment is inclusive, promotes competence, independent exploration and learning through play
3.3	The Service takes an active role in caring for its environment and contributes to a sustainable future

PURPOSE

We aim to ensure the environment is safe, clean and sustainable. We believe in educating our visitors about the environment which is promoted through daily practices, resource and interactions. Sustainable practice will be encouraged within the service assisting Service users to become advocates for a sustainable future.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management and visitors of the Service.

IMPLEMENTATION

Learning about sustainability starts with everyday practice. We believe environmentally sustainable practices should be embedded into operations of the service. Our service is committed to protecting our environment to ensure a sustainable future for our children. This process involves educators, children, families, our staff and all visitors to the service working together to protect our environment to ensure a sustainable future.

Through continuous education and the raising of awareness we strive to improve every day!

Management will:

- Network with the local community to keep up to date with current practices and ideas for sustainability.
- Encourage educators, families and children to engage in innovative practices and appreciate the natural environment.
- Where relevant, review policies and procedures within the Service to find more sustainable outcomes. (eg: Using hand dryers or washers instead of paper towel to dry hands)
- Where possible electronic communication will be used to reduce paper use within the office and in each room for newsletters, billing and other communication needs.
- Source resources and materials from more sustainable outlets.
- Ensure sustainable practices are incorporated into the daily routine. These will include:

Sustainable Practice	Ideas
Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Recycling paper and rubbish- Using recycled water
Energy Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Limit the use carbon emitting resources wherever possible
Water Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Using half flush on the toilet- Turning off the water when not in use
Natural Resources & Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reusing natural materials – trees, blocks, boxes etc- Using as many naturally available resources as possible- Enable the education of service users to understand the world around us and what it can safely provide.

Staff will:

- Incorporate recycling as part of everyday practice at the Service. Recycling containers will be provided throughout meal times and experiences.
- Role model sustainable practices.
- Discuss sustainable practices with the service users as part of the curriculum.
- Provide information to all on sustainable practices that are implemented at the Service and encourage the application of these practices in the home environment.
- Share ideas between staff, children and families about sustainable ideas, implementation and resources.
- Role model energy and water conservation practices.
- Seek to purchase equipment that is environmentally friendly where possible. Staff will reduce the amount of plastic and disposable equipment they purchase and select materials that are made of natural materials.
- Use the concept of “reduce, re-use and recycle” which will become part of everyday practice.

Source

- The Business of Childcare, Karen Kearns. 2004
 - Education and Care Services National Regulation. 2015
 - National Quality Standards
-
- Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities – www.environment.gov.au
 - Early Childhood Environmental Education Network www.eceen.org.au
 - Early Childhood Environmental Education Network (ECEEN) www.eceen.org.au
 - Environmental Education in Early Childhood (EEEC) www.eeec.org.au

Review

Policy Reviewed	Modifications	Next Review Date
January 2023	Policy Created and Implemented	January 2024
December 2023	Policy reviewed and reissued	January 2025
February 2025	Policy Reviewed and reissued, Changes to Registered address from 36 Ballens Road, Chatham, Kent. ME5 8NX to 62 Conqueror Drive, Gillingham, Kent. ME7 2WP	January – March 2026