

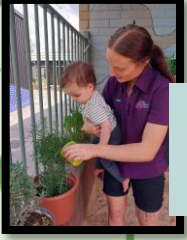
TCC Sustainability Newsletter



Sep 2022

Curriculum news:

Over the recent months all the educators and children across TCC have been taking part in their own sustainable practices and projects. When TCC educators provide a sustainable environment for the children attending the service they are promoting the idea of the children being partners and collaborators in their learning. These opportunities have the potential to support children's understanding of the environment and their inherent responsibility as global citizens.



Heidi and Rocci watering the plants.

The educators in the nursery have been implementing practices of watering the plants in their room. This has began to teach the children basic skills in caring for plants, and their environment, while also teaching them responsible water use by using the water from their drink bottles. Throughout the weeks they have also expressed their creativity by painting cardboard boxes, donated to the centre by families and educators.

If you would like to contribute to this donation there is a large bucket located at the entrance door in the foyer.

Sam and Jack proud of the lemons they have grown in the toddler room.



The children in the Toddler room assisted Debbie in the garden recently, when they planted summer veggies. The children participated in digging the holes and turning the soil, as well as how to carefully place the new seedling in the hole and cover the roots up with dirt. When they had finished planting they then watered the seedlings. Throughout the week the children will often help the educators water the plants. This creates educator lead conversations and discussions of any changes they can observe happening to the plants, such as flowers, growth or fruit buds.



Isabell helping Debbie in the garden.

The educators and children in the Fungroup room took the opportunity of father's day to utilise some of their collected supplies from the store room. They were able to make the game of tic, tac, toe by reusing the milk bottle caps and gold bags from the store room. This game was a great opportunity for the children to spend some quality time with their Dads and enjoy something they spent time making. They also repurposed cardboard that was donated from a member of the community and turned it into photo frames that the children decorated with left over collage paper.



Freddie, Archie and Charlie making their fathers day presents.

The Preschool educators and children have recently been exploring the cycle of backyard food production. Over the winter the children planted some veggies, as there was a lot of growth in the garden they started to feed some off cuts of silver beet to the chickens. The chickens were very happy with these scraps. Once the chickens began laying Andrea used the eggs from the chickens and made sausage rolls. The children loved this yummy learning experience and observed the bright yellow yolks in the eggs. When they had enough of the sausage rolls they put their scraps in the worm farm. A few weeks later the children then turned over their veggie gardens and fed their new summer vegetable seedings with some worm juice. This became a scaffolded learning opportunity as they discovered the simple and effective ongoing cycle of sustainable food production. The children shared their pleasure and happiness that comes with growing and sourcing their own food, with their Pre-school community. Educators then incorporated a sensory worm farm experience into their program to provide the children with the opportunity to further explore the worms.



Andrea Making Sausage-rolls with the children.

(NQS: Physical Environment- 3.2.3)



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the traditional custodians of the land in which we meet.

We pay our respects to the Elders of the past, present and future.

All outdoor learning spaces at TCC incorporate a vegetable or fruit tree garden, this is an intentional teaching method for guiding and supporting the children at TCC to learn to care for and appreciate their environment and the world they live in. Gardens are one of the easiest and effective ways to see the effects of sustainable living practices. Growing your own veggie garden helps reduce the demand on the land, as well as reducing energy costs that comes with getting fresh food to your plate, and helps keep our water ways clean from the chemical load caused by pesticides and fertilizers.



Mozzies

"Wouldn't it be nice if there were no mozzies?"

With the recent wet and humid weather we have seen a dramatic increase in the presence of Mosquitoes, and while it sounds like a nice idea to live in a world without these pests, they actually play a vital role in the ecosystem. As do all living things. All mosquitoes eat nectar, and this in turn pollinates and fertilizes plants, causing them to flower and reproduce. Only when the female mosquito lay eggs do they source a blood meal for protein.

TCC have noticed a larger amount of mosquitoes within the outdoor learning environments and have asked families to supply insect repellent to help protect their children. Educators have noticed a large number of families supplying environmentally friendly and naturally sourced repellents to help protect their children. These not only smell amazing but can also be purchased from local businesses such as Tatura IGA and Mes Amours Boutique.

(NQS: QA2- Children's health and safety)

Community Input

"Helping out community and surrounds"

Recently our Local and surrounding Communities have seen and continue to see the devastation caused by the recent floods. While this has been a hard time for a lot of families, Tatura has been lucky to escape any major impacts caused by the water, except for a temporary loss of power. While this was inconvenient TCC were able to help support the community members who had lots their homes and forced to evacuate, by donating all our frozen and refrigerated food. This food was appreciated by all those effected and seeking refuge in our welcoming town of Tatura. TCC as a service encourage strong relationships and collaboration with the children and families attending to participate within the community and support it when needed. Engagement within our local community scaffolds and embeds a sense of identity and belonging to Tatura. Thank-you to all those who helped others within our Community.

(NQS: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities- 6.2.3)

Professional development

'Learning about embedding sustainability within TCC'

As you may know Tamara is TCC's sustainability officer and recently participated in a sustainability webinar, through *Real World Learning*. Through this webinar Tamara gained further knowledge and understanding that will help TCC embed sustainable practices within the service, in an achievable and realistic time frame. The webinar was a great opportunity for Tamara to reflect on what sustainability means to her, how we are achieving aspects of this within the TCC service and how we can work towards our continuous improvement.

(Practice principles: Partnerships with professionals)



Tamara participating in a webinar.

Intentional Teaching:

"Learning about rubbish"

At TCC the environments are considered our 'third teacher'. Educators carefully organise the indoor and outdoor learning spaces to create a shared responsibility, that are intent and purposeful in delivering rich and meaningful learning opportunities to the children while developing their sense of agency. These learning spaces reflect the interests, knowledge, skills and capabilities of the children within them. Recently the Pre-school educators have set up an intentional rubbish sorting area, as they noticed the children were asking what bins their rubbish items went in. to help make this learning fun the educators set up a magnetic sorting game with some books and images to help along the way. The children have been developing the sense of agency as they choose what resources they want to use and how they will interact with the space provided to them. The Pre-school educators have noticed a lot of research happening and collaboration amongst the children to work out and investigate what bin their particular rubbish items go in. This has been an enjoyable process to watch as the children now proudly tell their educator what bin they will place their rubbish in.

(TCC Philosophy: Learning Environments)



Charlotte engaging in the rubbish sorting activity.

