

Water Education in Pre-Schools Program

Fact Sheet

WATER WATER EVERYWHERE!

Water is one of the most important resources in the world. In Australia water is a resource we need to value and use wisely.

Imagine life without water!

An activity you could complete at your centre to start children thinking, is ask about 10 ways in which water is used in your Centre and at home.

Examples include water for us to drink, for plants and animals to drink, a home for animals, for washing your clothes, for brushing your teeth, having a bath/shower, for flushing the toilet, to wash the car, to swim in your pool, to wash the dishes, for flowers in a vase.

Now think about ways we can **SAVE** water - attached is a checklist of how your centre can save water.

Water play - an essential part of the early childhood experience

Water Play is an essential part of the early childhood experience. To balance the use of water in the children's programs with the concepts of water conservation, ensure children are able to experience the important elements of water in a sustainable way. For example harvesting the Centres water in a rainwater tank which is then used in the watertrough, with activities each day and a lid placed on to limit evaporation, becomes a sustainable use of water in the Centre. Use clear water and a new experience each day, eg one day float/sink with boats, another washing dolls in clean water, another touching pure water in waterwheels, another measuring water in various sized containers and the final day using small watering cans to collect the water and use on the veggio patch. Children and staff can learn the many uses of water, its elements from aesthetic sensory and calming, to cognitive and conceptual whilst learning water is a precious and sustainable resource. Children then learn how it can be re-used and recycled and how water is life-giving for plants, animals and people. Sustainable water play also shows children how it can be used wisely.

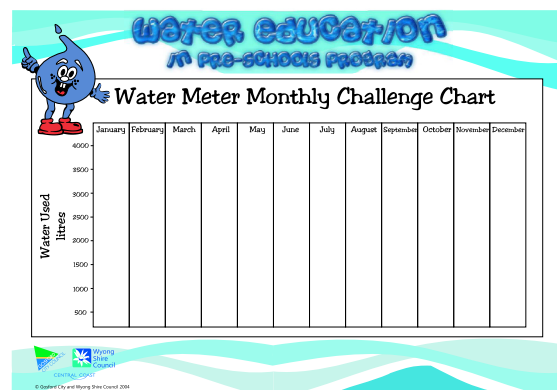


Water Education in Pre-Schools Visit

During a Water Education in Pre-School visit, the children are actively engaged in the music/language session with great ideas and thinking about how to save water. Centres receive a water audit and together devise an action plan to assist in implementing effective water saving strategies. Sharing of ideas and effective strategies helps all centres and enables us to learn new ways of sustainable water use inclusive of sustainable waterplay activities in our early childhood settings.

Water meter Monthly Challenge Chart

Start using the Water Meter Monthly Challenge Chart with the children and display it in the classroom to see how much water you can save. For your FREE copy contact Eva. Fox@wyong.nsw.gov.au



Save Water Checklist

How many can you tick on the Save Water Checklist

- Water stations with reusable cups to use in and outdoors.
- Turn off water bubblers and garden irrigation in the centre when not in use.
- Children bringing their own water bottles to the centre – these can be easily transported in a sports crate which also keeps them separated for hygiene reasons.
- Vegetable Patch. This could be a project set up with parent and local community involvement and donations including pots, soil, mulch, plants and seedlings to get the project rolling.
- Install a small watertank for outdoor playspace and children can use small watering cans to water the veggie patch.
- Catch rainwater in children's water troughs or in buckets (placed up high for safety reasons). Then use the water as a measuring activity with children to see how much water has been caught.
- Collect leftover water from children's drink cups and use it to water centre plants. Bring the outdoors indoors with some inside plants
- Incorporate the slogan 'turn off the tap' in a photo sequence in children's bathrooms eg photos - wash your hands, turn off the tap, dry your hands.
- Dripping taps and toilet cisterns? Call the plumber to significantly reduce water waste.
- Organise your plumber or handyperson to turn down the flow on taps or add aerators to save water.
- In large toilet cisterns place a 2 litre water filled container (eg milk bottle) into the cistern to reduce water used in each flush. Think how many times each child flushes a toilet each day This can significantly reduce water output instantly! This is an effective and no cost strategy to save both water and money.
- Mulch the gardens to ensure water stays in the soil and does not evaporate.
- Look at installing a rainwater tank for internal and external use.
- Want ideas of how to obtain a rainwater tank? Apply for grants, fundraise and approach local hardware store for discount or donations and reciprocate this with a 'thankyou' in your Centres Newsletter – great marketing for local and family businesses!
- Look at purchasing or borrowing from the local library, books on exploring water play and water conservation.
- Attach a tap on your watertank to enable external access for outdoor water play and watering children's gardens and veggie patches.
- Install a commercial rather than domestic dishwasher – 30 seconds for a commercial versus 30 minute water cycle in domestic style.
- Attach 'save water' stickers to taps and also on the half-flush button on the toilet.
- Children only ever need to use the HALF flush button.
- Adjust the level on your washing machine before each wash – place a sign for staff on the panel to alert staff to change the water level.
- Remove external tap tops and replace with removable taps in areas which are easily accessed by the public.
- Designate 'Water Monitors' in your centre. The children with the supervision of a staff member can be identified by a special badge and are in charge of checking daily for dripping taps and to water plants with leftover water tipped in a bucket.
- Sustainable indoor water activities for example collect tadpoles and return them to their natural environment. A great resource for this activity is: <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/animalsinschools/resources/guidelines>
- Program Planning – include a 'Green Section' where sustainability activities, practices and water saving activities become a natural part of the daily program.



CENTRAL COAST

To book your FREE Water Education in Pre-Schools Visit to your Centre contact Eva.Fox@wyong.nsw.gov.au or phone 43505173.