



Centre name: Bonnyrigg Heights Early Learning Centre

Project name: Our Sustainable Garden

Why: The purpose of our project is to implement an edible garden to embed healthy eating practices. We aim to achieve a holistic wellbeing for the children and families. We aspire to build the foundations for the children that will promote and enhance healthier lifestyle choices by educating and role modelling sustainable habits.

How: We are going to involve community, parents and children in building our edible garden. We will demonstrate the process of growing vegetables, harvesting and cooking and sharing at afternoon tea. We will share the produce with families and encourage them to set up their own at home. We will share recipes and gardening information.

Children will learn about the resources involved in growing our garden. They will sort their waste for compost/worms/landfill/recycling and reuse. They will be involved in managing water to be used to grow the edible garden and monitor the growth and changes of the plants.

Outcome:

Children and educators have embedded daily sustainable practices into our daily routine through implementation of feeding the worm farm our food scraps and collecting items to compost. By using these resources, it will improve the quality of our local environment as less rubbish will go into landfill as we utilise the compost tumbler and worm farm. Children remain motivated about exploring our garden especially as our plants have sprouted and are harvestable. We have used some herbs in cooking experiences and families have taken herbs home.

We often discuss the benefits of being 'eco warriors' so they can take this knowledge home and help monitor the use of water and electricity.

The staff have experimented with the 'footprint calculator' to examine how they can reduce their environmental impact. The results have motivated the staff to share solutions and with families.

