



Centre name: Janice Crosio Early Learning Centre

Project name: Janice Crosio Veggie Patch

Why: To revive our veggie patch and create more natural areas in the outdoor environment. To involve children in the food growing process and educate them about reducing waste and our carbon footprint by growing our own produce.

How: We will establish a veggie patch using the compost and worm juice from our current worm farm;

- implement a food composting system for children during their meal times.
 - Introduce 2 different recycled containers for children to sort their waste;
- maintain our compost bin and worm farm.
- reduce single-use plastic waste through introducing a waste sorting system and educating children and families. We will be focusing on plastic from children's meal times as they pack their own morning tea & lunch. This will be accomplished by:

- Educating families through a display in the foyer, providing posters and examples of what they can use instead

- Emailing to families information on how to reduce single use-plastic when packing lunch for their child

- Providing children with learning experiences about plastic and where it ends up

- Start a garbage garden so children can see which materials decompose

- Collect children's plastic from meal times to compare how much we will reduce

Outcome:

The children

- became more observant of what was happening in our garden (connection to nature) and more respectful of the natural environment, e.g. not picking our flowers because there will be no fruit.
- showed interest in different insects in our garden, initiated care for the garden e.g. asking to water the garden, feed worms and harvest fruits and vegetables.
- recognised their role in sustainability by having plastic free lunch boxes and became advocates for not using plastics by communicating the message to their families.
- had more interest in eating fruits and vegetables because they planted it.
- learnt what plants need to grow and how to care for them

We have connected with the high school farm next door and hope to continue

Waste free lunch boxes information have been included in the parent handbook.

Participated in National Tree Day with plants donated from Council

Families have donated plants and supported our garden project



We established a Commitment Tree for families and educators to make sustainable actions for change.

The local coffee shop donates their coffee waste for our compost



Planting a garbage garden



Making a commitment for the planet

