



Centre name: Short Street Preschool and Occasional Care

Project name: Carlos and the Community Garden

Why: We compost/recycle in the centre. When children asked "but what happens to the recycling after? Where does it go?" Educators/children looked at the Bokasi bin before/after it was composted and realised we could take it further and restart our community garden, extend sustainability learning to other areas;

- Biodiversity - links between water, soil, attracting pollinators
- Growing healthy plants using organic principles
- Promoting healthy eating/snacks/cooking with Carlos using the produce
- Collecting seeds, taking cuttings to make the garden sustainable, sharing our produce/ new plants with families and the local community

Leading to Improved wellbeing, sense of belonging/working together to respect for environment

How: We will investigate how plants grow and what they need to be healthy by doing experiments. These will be determined by children's observations and questions.

We will integrate the 3 Bokashi, 2 compost bins and worm farm into the garden system. We will use the compost to revitalise our community garden.

A visit from Penny from Wollongong Council will help us identify plants and trees we have growing in and around the centre. This information will be used to research the flowers available for our native bees. Any gaps we will consider for future planting.

Narelle Happ will help us learn about bush tucker plants and their uses for our community garden.

We will learn about propagating from a community member and she will donate plants for us to grow.

As the plants grow we will learn about preparing healthy snacks from Carlos the Chef a doll that goes home with families and returns with stories of his stay.

We share produce with friends in the local community eg. Gwen Booker Visually Impaired Group and Corrimal Library who meet nearby.

Set up a harvest table to encourage sharing of excess food

Outcome:

Carlos the Chef was used to encourage lunch boxes with the least amount of single use packaging.

Children have implemented a leadership role with Recycling Warriors ensuring daily bokashi and composting tasks are completed.

Penny from Wollongong Council refreshed our knowledge about worm farming and show us how they can help make our plants happy.

