



Top Ten Tips for your Early Childhood Service to Reduce Waste to Landfill

Tip One

Find out exactly what materials are accepted in your Waste Collection Service run by your local Council. Do you have a kerbside recycling bin and/or kerbside green bin? Find out exactly what materials can be placed in them. Find out what can be recycled at your Councils landfill site. If you have a commercial waste contract investigate whether or not you can access recycling skips as well. The web site for your local Council is a good place to start.

Tip Two

Separate waste effectively in staff areas and with the children. Waste needs to be separated into compostable material, recycling, paper for re-use, items for re-use and material that is rubbish or cannot be used again.

Tip Three

Materials need to be placed in the correct external bins and compostable material needs to go into worm farms, compost bins or sent home to feed chooks.

Tip Four

All staff need to work as a team even cleaning staff as they are often responsible for putting materials into outside bins.

Tip Five

Set up routines for the children to separate rubbish themselves and incorporate worm farms, compost bins and veggie patches to enrich your outdoor program. Offer children information on separating and disposing rubbish thoughtfully. Offer discussions and stories on landfill sites and re-using valuable materials.

Tip Six

Document what the children are learning and display this information to parents. Promote your waste reduction focus to parents by talking to them, putting information in newsletters and inviting them to participate. Set up displays, give parents fact sheets in newsletters.

Tip Seven

Investigate reducing the chemicals that are used in your Service. Look at buying and using environmentally friendly cleaning products. Do some research on the effects of chemicals on the health of small children.

Tip Eight

Think broadly about what other things can be done. Buy products with recycled content. Reduce the amount of disposable nappies used in your Services. Promote Low Waste Lunches which avoid excess packaging, cling wrap and throw away items. Use your staff team as an Action Group!

Tip Nine

Our website and many other sources offer great resources. Access these to educate and motivate people. Ring your local Council for information and support. Our web address is www.northeastwasteforum.org.au

Tip Ten

Write action plans that can be worked through slowly and be used to keep the momentum going. Remember we are all working together to conserve natural resources and reduce what we throw out to landfill. We are doing this so that our children will have a future!