

Cannington Early Learning embrace a two bin composting system

Cannington Early Learning is a service within Canning that embraces the City's initiative to support a two bin composting system to reuse and recycle their food waste. Centre Sustainability Team Leader, Brigid Davis, states *"Creating a closed loop of nature recycling is not that difficult if you take little steps"*.

Centre Director, Aishling McCaffery, is excited to share their sustainable journey so far and to highlight the new compost bin in action. The children add to the compost bins daily and watch the scraps turn into compost, which they then help educators spread into the garden. The centre grows its own veggies which are then used in their cooking and because the centre has set up a partnership with a community garden, the children extend their knowledge on how best to care for their veggies.



The toddler's area with its narrow garden beds is contributing to nature recycling now too. *"Under Little Green Steps WA (LGSWA) direction we have just obtained the tubing to set up our upcycled worm tubes from a local curtain shop"* says Aishling. The intention is for toddlers to take part as well as the older children and to begin the process of explaining the wonderful role of worms and compost creatures in this process. The team at Cannington Early Learning have collaboratively developed a sustainability management plan which provides the educators with shared motivation. *"Our next goal is to encourage our families to become more sustainable by sharing our ideas with them"* Aishling said.

Other sustainable discussions and practices which the Cannington Early Learning engage children in include:

- using bins with the correct colour lids in each room and observing how bins are used for recycling items
- limiting the use of electricity by observing an Earth hour each day when all lights are turned off
- having different food scrap bins - one for dog scraps (staff dogs), one for the compost bin and one for the worm farm
- pouring children's own reusable water bottles on the plants at the end of the day
- reusing items such as formula tins and milk cartons to plant seedlings in.



Finally, Cannington Early Learning runs a regular community market, to encourage families to rehome some items and recycle other items from home to donate.

For further information on the Little Green Steps Program contact the LGSWA Education Officer, Megan Mentz, on 08 9461 7160 or send an email to m.mentz@aaeewa.org.au.