

Warooga Child Care exceeding in quality



Warooga Child Care in Riverton was recently rated 'Exceeding' in its national quality standard assessment. This is no small feat for a Centre situated in an old building and is in part due to their increased focus on ecological and social sustainability with regard to their education program, children's health and wellbeing, the physical environment and collaborative partnerships with their community.

Since hosting a City of Canning Little Green Steps WA (LGSWA) workshop in November 2017, Warooga's Sustainability Officer, Amber Sing reports that *"sustainability has been paramount in our programming and now our everyday sustainable practices have become more embedded into the children's routines"*.

They have embraced community partnerships in a more focussed way and take advantage of both significant events such as World Environment Day as well as the everyday by visiting the local park using their nature tool box and local bird identikit, ideas sourced from the LGSWA workshop.

'Earth Hour' is celebrated in each room and 'Adopt a Spot' has become a recognised practice and a catch phrase to encourage the children to help keep their local area litter free. With Riverton library around the corner, that connection to community has been further utilised through walking visits to participate in the library's 'All About Loose Parts Play'.

Warooga intend on becoming a collection point for many recycle items and have recently registered with Terracycle to collect oral hygiene waste items from their parent community, which will then be sent on to recreate hard wearing plastic furniture.

Finally, providing room educators with the responsibility to lead change has seen different age groups of children focus on their own sustainable themes. The 2 year olds recently looked at protecting water habitats from pollution using a fun activity developed by LGSWA; a game of fishing in a bucket which helps children see the impact of plastic and detergents affecting fish and turtle life. Meanwhile the 3 year olds focussed on energy and monitored their carbon footprint by creating a collage of their community and doing a tally on who walks, rides and drives to daycare.



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.