



Environment,
Climate Change
& Water



NSW Early Childhood Environmental Education Network

SPROuts Practice Awards

Sustainable

Projects

OUTStanding

PRACTICE

Supported by NSW Early Childhood Education Network (ECEEN) &

The NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change & Water (DECCW)



NSW Early Childhood Education Network

About the SPROuts Practice Awards

Overview

Background

The **Sustainable Practice Recognising Outstanding Practice Awards** are open to members of NSW ECEEN to show case the projects which demonstrate their commitment to learning for sustainability. “Patches of Green” Elliott. NSW EPA 2003* recommended “The grass roots passion and commitment that have initiated, promoted and supported environmental education are to be acknowledged”. Since 2005, these services have continued to inspire others to take the first steps and evolve into future SPROuts participants and winners. The Awards will continue to be a significant influence on the integration of sustainable practices into the operations and curriculum of Early Childhood services in NSW.

Participating organisations

The SPROuts Practice Awards continues to be supported by the Community Education section of NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water.

Community involvement

Early Childhood services are collaborative environments where staff, families and the local community share the responsibility of educating young children. The SPROuts highlight services which become the catalyst for building communities where children are encouraged and supported to be active members. The nurturing practices modeled by the educators include sustainable principles which are built on respect and care of the environment.

The journeys for early childhood services in NSW toward sustainability are documented in the SPROuts Practice Awards and highlight the significance of lifelong learning of sustainability

Where to start...

Develop a structured plan/approach

- Get a team on board (staff, families, children & wider community)
- Develop your vision – This is one of the key components in Education for Sustainability and is a crucial starting point for any change.
 - Visioning for sustainability - Imagine a better future
 - Developing a vision statement -
 - Becoming a sustainable Early Childhood Service with a responsibility to the wider community
- Integrate your vision into curriculum and early learning framework

Consider developing an Early Childhood Environmental Management Plan for your service, with regard to environmental education and how it will be embedded in every day practices.

Consider the following when developing your plan:

1. How are the families in your early childhood community engaged and participating in the planning process. What are their concerns and priorities? Use meetings and fund raising events to develop support and a picture of the needs and wants of the centre's community. Get a team together to decide on how to best use this information and start your plan.
2. Learn more about the centre and research what materials and resources are needed. Give examples of how these are used to integrate sustainability principles into the curriculum. For example, a water tank that the children can use for water play
3. Detail your action plan. For example, your water action plan may include changes to the centres plumbing systems, water tank and changing patterns of water use for the children at the centre and how they use water at home.
4. Gather, measure, record and describe. Gather stories of Change, Share the stories and search for the projects impact. This will help you to form a documentation of your journey and the children will be able to contribute. Also, your achievements can then be communicated to staff, parents and the community.
5. Celebrate your achievements.

The SPROuts Practice Awards Guidelines

If you need support in completing the application contact ECEEN: email: info@eceedn.org.au

Important Dates:

Guidelines and Template available: December year prior to awards.

Due Date of Application: End of 2nd week in May each year

Review of Submissions: June each year,

Presentation of the 3 winners at an ECEEN Event July each year.

To be eligible

Membership of NSW ECEEN. It is a requirement that all entrants are current ECEEN members. Membership forms are available on the web site, www.eceedn.org.au

Application form: NSW ECEEN has provided a template, (also on the web site) which we request you complete, please follow guidelines for size and length of your document. Font must be no smaller than 10 pts. The whole document should be no larger than 2MB.

After completion please email to: info@eceedn.org.au

Sharing the applications: Should your project be selected as a runner up or a winner we ask that NSW ECEEN has permission to place your application up on our web site to share with other members. By submitting your application we assume you acknowledge this.

Permission for use of photos in web page: Please ensure you have permission for the project to be submitted and that you certify that all photos sent have permission from those in the photos, in the case of children we require that you have parent's permission to use their photos, other wise we suggest you either blank out a face with a photo program or use photos without identifiable faces.

Judging : A panel of independent judges with Sustainability backgrounds will select 3 SPROuts awards for excellence, one winner from each of the 3 categories listed below. Please choose the category within which you feel your project best fits. You may submit a different project for each category. The evaluation is based on a Most Significant Change technique (MSC), which is a form of participatory monitoring and evaluation. When deciding which stories to share in your

application we suggest you discuss these with your teams, families and even the children to consider which stories demonstrate the most significant impact?

Categories

1. Energy

2. Connecting with Nature

3. Other – well-being & environmental health; water; waste; transport; procurement; etc.

The prizes

Thanks to the generous support of The Department of Environment, Climate Change & Water (DECCW). ECEEN is able to offer 3 prizes of \$500 each to be given to the Children's Service.

Specifics for Completing the Application Form:

Project Title: Try to be creative yet simple while letting us know what you will call this project.

Telling the Story: In 300 words or less tell us about your project. What was the situation like before your project was undertaken? What was your inspiration for the change? What actually happened? Who was involved and how were decisions made?

Linking the Learning: In less than 500 words tell us what was significant about the change. What changes did you experience? What stories tell other people's changes? How were the changes linked to the category you have selected for this project? What learning might be identified that links with other Early Childhood and/ or Sustainability standards? (e.g. the Early Years Learning Framework)

Future Potential: In less than 300 words tell us where you see this going? Has it influenced any further change? Who will carry things forward? What differences will your project make in the future?

Size: As your application may be displayed on the ECEEN website, we request that a total of 4 photos only be submitted to support your application. In total the whole document size needs to be within 2MB after PDF.

After completion please email to: info@eceed.org.au

Resources:

Visit the LIBRARY within the member's section of ECEEN web site for many resources.

«Organization»