



Welcome to the Forest Approach Sustainability Plan.

We are pleased to present our commitment to sustainability and the strategic measures we will implement to achieve our objectives. This initiative is particularly crucial as we address significant global challenges, including climate change.

Our organisation is dedicated to reviewing our practices and adapting our operations to promote sustainability. While our methodology may differ from that of a traditional preschool, our Early Years education is designed to prepare children to assume their roles and responsibilities as informed global citizens. We advocate for equitable Early Childhood Education and Care for all children, recognising their importance as the future of our global community.

We have started our efforts on a small scale, focusing on eliminating single-use plastics. As a recognition of these initiatives, we were honoured to receive the Plastic Free Community Award from Surfers Against Sewage, which acknowledges our commitment to reducing single-use plastics. Additionally, we actively participate in the recycling of plastic materials.

Every decisive action we take toward our ambitious goal propels us forward in the right direction. It's important to recognise that even the smallest changes can create a substantial impact, reaching far beyond their initial scope. Each minor adjustment plays a crucial role in our overarching vision, proving that incremental advances can lead to transformative outcomes.

We are committed to driving positive change in the world, one child at a time. Our mission is to deliver the highest quality Early Years education, ensuring that every child receives the best possible start in life. By tackling the challenges that hinder their development, we empower each child to unlock their full potential.

The Early Years provide an ideal foundation for discussions about sustainability. In this environment, children and educators collaborate as partners in the learning process. They are encouraged to think critically, take proactive steps towards sustainable development, and foster a culture of change. This approach not only enhances their understanding of sustainability but also empowers them to be active participants in shaping a more sustainable future.

Where does it start at TFA?

We thrive on the challenge of operating in a site without electricity or running water. Our lodge, crafted with intention, provides cosy warmth in winter and a refreshing retreat in summer. By harnessing rechargeable batteries, we illuminate our surroundings with enchanting fairy lights, creating a truly magical atmosphere. We'll also install water butts to enable children to play and to support our allotments effectively.

At TFA, our commitment to sustainability drives us to ensure that every child has access to quality and affordable Early Years education and care. We strive to foster a community where

children, staff, and parents are all informed about sustainability. This principle is deeply embedded in every aspect of TFA. While we recognise that we're just getting started, we are excited about the bright future that lies ahead.

1 Reduce

Reduce food wastage, materials, and resource consumption. It is crucial to eliminate single-use items and adopt more sustainable practices. For instance, using reusable water bottles and shopping bags not only benefits the environment but also promotes sustainable habits. Additionally, we must actively avoid impulse purchases to further minimise our impact.

2 Reuse

To foster sustainability, it's essential to make the most of materials by using them multiple times and for different purposes. The ideas of "repurposing" and "upcycling" allow us to give new life to items that may seem outdated. For example, cutting plastic bottles in half can turn them into creative worm farms. These examples showcase practical ways to reuse goods, cut down on waste, and encourage creativity, such as glass jars, egg cartons and single-use plastics

3 Repair Instead of discarding items or hastily repurposing them, we should prioritise fixing them. Repairing not only extends the lifespan of our belongings but also showcases our resourcefulness and creativity. By skilfully addressing damages and wear, we maintain the original purpose and functionality of these objects, significantly reducing waste and making a positive impact on the environment. This approach reflects a strong commitment to sustainability and cultivates a genuine appreciation for our possessions. Moreover, tackling repairs brings a sense of accomplishment and pride, reinforcing our ability to restore what we value to its original state. Embracing this mindset empowers us to manage our resources and promote a more sustainable future.

4. Recycle. Recognise the value of alternatives to simply discarding rubbish and take the initiative to educate children about the significant impact they can make through these choices.

5 Rot Allow organic matter to return to the earth, enriching the next crop of plants and providing a vital habitat for insects and small rodents.

6 Respect Promote an understanding and respect for nature and natural processes, while also working to mitigate the extent of their infringement. This involves demonstrating consideration and compassion for all individuals and animals.

7 Reflect The practice of being reflective, inquiring thoughtfully, and contemplating one's experiences holds significant value.

8 Responsibility The responsibility of managing or undertaking initiatives that are deemed worthwhile is paramount, particularly in the context of fostering social and economic sustainability. This includes practices such as Fair Trade and support for local markets, which contribute significantly to community well-being.

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