

What is an Education for Sustainability approach?

Education for Sustainability is about working with your local community to develop the knowledge, skills, values and behaviours for leading sustainable lifestyles. There are many ways that you can go about doing this and below are some ideas for (pre)schools beginning their Education for Sustainability journey. It's great if your (pre)school is already doing one or two things under each heading. For a more in-depth look at Education for Sustainability at your (pre)school use the [Core Indicators tools](#).

Culture

- Learning together
- Sharing ideas
- Looking at how things are done and how they might be improved
- Everyone involved and contributing
- Develop a vision for a sustainable future.

Learning

- Student leadership opportunities
- Students included in decisions that affect them
- Students taking action on what they've learnt
- Lesson plans include learning about the local environment and sustainability
- Students learn about their world through hands-on activities
- Students further develop life skills.

Understanding

- Staff training opportunities to increase sustainability knowledge
- Consider social, cultural and environmental impacts of decisions as well as economic ones
- (Pre)school community encouraged to adopt sustainable behaviours.

Managing

- Developed long term goals for the (pre)school
- Have a sustainability working group or committee
- Invited young people, families and community members to join the working group or committee
- Commitment from leadership to sustainability
- Decided on a whole (pre)school focus/goal/inquiry
- Recorded baseline data (e.g. energy audit)
- Documentation on what you already do and your (pre)school's future plans
- Systems in place to encourage people to do the sustainable thing.

Community

- Influencing families and the community to be more sustainable
- Families involved in (pre)school activities
- Building relationships with local businesses and community groups.

