

Early Years Sustainable Hub – Case Study Template

TITLE	Little Oaks Playschool
Type of setting <i>Pre school number</i> <i>Particularities ie new build</i>	Not for Profit PVI, Full Day Care, Nursery School, All Year, Ages 3 months to 5 years. 50 places. Rural. URN 2746822 Purpose built nursery, completed 2023
TOP TIP – <i>what you have learned?</i>	Ask staff for suggestions for small changes – incentivise (reluctant staff?) with contribution to a staff team event (money towards Christmas meal) – Playschool’s Earth Shot Prize! for the most effective contribution.
Your journey and aim – <i>brief summary to give context, your aim/focus</i>	My vision was to make Playschool as sustainable as possible so that not only contributing to saving the planet, educating children and families but also enabling Playschool to survive financial constraints of underfunding. We did our first Eco school award (Bronze) over 10 years ago in a shared village hall setting.
Area of provision: <i>Please highlight particular aspects that your actions insights successes consider, things you can recommend</i>	• Plan of building, energy saving • Plan for outside space to increase biodiversity • Look at routines and policies with sustainability in mind e.g. introducing recycled card/paper for mark making & reuseable wipes.
Transport and travel	Difficult to change as rural setting with no public transport for staff or families. Provided bike/buggy store for local families to encourage them to walk/ride to Playschool when possible. Talk to children & families about sustainable travel possibilities to school when they move on from us. Have provision for e-car charging. Synchronise staff arrivals if live in same area to enable car sharing.
Energy	Solar panels generate electricity for immediate use or to charge batteries. Air source heat pumps. Underfloor heating with many individually controllable zones thermostatically controlled. Time use of appliances where possible to coincide with sun shining! Natural ventilation. Engage with Let’s go zero – count your carbon.
Waste	Reduce, reuse, recycle, repair as much as possible.

	Compost, wormery, recycle including soft plastics, open to donations of resources and share extra resources/food with families (fare share & swap shop). Older children have responsibility to take food for worms and composting to areas. Big toilet project/Eric to promote successful toilet training to reduce nappy waste. Generally, staff do not wear disposable aprons or single use gloves unnecessarily during food delivery or personal care routines. Cloth aprons used in kitchen and for children's cooking activities. Reusable cleaning cloths used where possible. Purchase recycled paper products.
Biodiversity	Use rewilding/natural regeneration principles while introducing wild flower seeds, hundreds of native trees/hedging plants. No mow May (and beyond!) Tree nursery. Registered as education nature park. Bird houses, bug hotel, bat box.
Water	Surfaces are permeable to reduce risk of flooding. Collect rainwater in butts. Low use toilet cisterns and taps that turn off automatically. Hot water system has timed pump to circulate hot water during work hours so water is not wasted.
Education	Talk to staff, children and families e.g. talking to parents about looking after resources rather than buying new. Engage families in working weekends e.g. to dig pond, create raised beds. Also, talk to other nurseries e.g. at Early Years Conference. Talk to Ofsted inspectors, SCC early years advisors and trainers. Mindful of UNESCO 17 Goals for sustainability.
ACTION PLAN shared	Yes/ no
If shared why did you choose this format?	Supported by Let's go zero.