



# UNPACKING

## THE NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS:

### QUALITY AREA 3

How can educators balance play-based learning and environmental responsibility?

#### Play as Discovery



Play-based learning sparks curiosity, creativity and critical thinking, essential for lifelong learning.

#### Environmental Curriculum

Embed sustainability, conservation and stewardship into lessons to foster a deep connection to nature.

#### Learning Environments

Create spaces with natural elements, recycled materials and sustainable resources to inspire ecological exploration.

#### Eco-Centric Themes

Let children's interests guide the curriculum, incorporating real-world sustainability projects like gardening and recycling.

#### Conservation Lessons

Teach practical conservation skills, such as reducing waste and conserving resources, through hands-on activities.

#### Respect for Nature



Encourage outdoor activities to cultivate empathy and respect for living organisms, inspiring lifelong environmental commitment.

#### Sustainable Practices

Model eco-friendly behaviors in daily routines, showing that small actions can significantly impact the planet.

