



SUN SAFETY POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Research has indicated that young children have sensitive skin that places them at particular risk of sunburn and skin damage. Exposure during the first 15 years of life can greatly increase the risk of developing skin cancer in later life. Childhood Services play a major role in minimising a child's UV exposure as children attend the service during times when UV radiation levels can be the highest.

PROCEDURE

To protect all children and educators from the harmful effects of ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun.

Outdoor Play

- ___ From October to March sun protection is required at all times.
- ___ Extra sun protection is needed between 11am and 3pm and during this period outdoor activities should be minimised. Minimising outdoor activities includes reducing both the number of times (frequency) and the length of time (duration) children are outside.
- ___ From April to September outdoor activity can take place at any time. However, from 10am – 2pm sun protection is required.

Shade

- All outdoor activities will be planned to occur in shaded areas. Play activities will be set up in the shade and moved throughout the day to take advantage of shade patterns.
- The service will provide and maintain adequate shade for outdoor play.
- Shade options can include a combination of portable, natural and built shade.
- Regular shade assessments should be conducted to monitor existing shade structures and assist in planning for additional shade.

Hats

- Educators and children are required to wear hats that protect their face.
- Children without a hat will be asked to play in an area protected from the sun (e.g. under shade, veranda or indoors) or can be provided with a spare hat.

Clothing

- When outdoors, educators and children will wear sun safe clothing that covers as much of their skin (especially the shoulders, back and stomach) as possible.
- This includes wearing: Loose fitting shirts and dresses with sleeves and collars or covered neckline. Longer style skirts, shorts and trousers are encouraged.

Sunscreen

- Educators and children will apply SPF30+ broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen before going outdoors and reapply every 2 hours.
- Sunscreen is stored in a cool, dry place and the use-by-date monitored.



Role Modelling

Educators will act as role models and demonstrate sun safe behaviour by:

- Wearing a hat.
- Wearing sun safe clothing.
- Applying SPF30+ broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors.
- Using and promoting shade.
- Wearing sunglasses. (preferably good quality that have SPF protection and that allow vision for children to see educators eyes).
- Families and visitors are encouraged to role model positive sun safe behaviour.

Education and Information

- ___ Sun protection will be incorporated regularly into learning programs.
- ___ Sun protection information will be promoted to educators, families and visitors.
- ___ Further information is available from the Cancer Council website www.cancercouncil.com.au/sunsmart.

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority.

Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations

ECA Code of Ethics.

Guide to the National Quality Standard.

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

Children's Services Act 1996

Work, Health & Safety Act 2011

Family Handbook

Staff Handbook

Version number	Date effective	Description of amendment
3	April 2018	Change to procedure
4	May 2020	Changes to wording
5	May 2022	No change

Considered and accepted by the Management Committee (representative) – S. Skelton

Considered and accepted by the staff (representative) – Katrina Thomas