



POLICY

SUN PROTECTION

Legislation

This policy relates to the following National Law and Regulations:

- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
- Section 167 – Protection from harm and hazards
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- Regulation 100 – Risk assessment must be conducted before excursion
- Regulation 113 – Outdoor space–natural environment
- Regulation 114 – Outdoor space–shade
- Regulation 168: Policies and procedures (2)(a)(ii)–sun protection.

National Quality Standards

All of the following SunSmart procedures link to:

- Quality area 2: Children’s health and safety.

There are also links to:

- Quality area 1: Educational program and practice
- Quality area 3: Physical environment
- Quality area 5: Relationships with children
- Quality area 6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
- Quality area 7: Governance and leadership.

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Contact position: Chairperson	Date approved by Governing Council: August 2019	Next review date: August 2022

1. TITLE

SUN PROTECTION POLICY

2. SCOPE

The policy applies to all those working on the site including students and volunteers, and parents/guardians of children enrolled at the centre, as well as any facilitated program provided by a service on the Elizabeth Grove Site.

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, with two in three Australians being diagnosed with skin cancer before aged 70. Melanoma is the most common cancer in Australians aged 12-24 years, and sun exposure during childhood and adolescence is critical in determining future skin cancer risk.

UV radiation cannot be seen or felt, and differs from infrared radiation that we feel as heat. UV levels are determined by a range of factors including angle of earth to the sun, but not by temperature, and levels can be high even on cool and cloudy days. UV damage is cumulative and irreversible.

3. PURPOSE

- To minimise children's exposure to harm UV radiation.
- To educate both children and parents/guardians about sun protection
- To ensure there is a duty of care in relation to sun safety to the children in care as well as to staff, parents and visitors at the centre.

4. POLICY DETAIL

4.1 Outdoor Activities

In line with the Department for Education requirements and SunSmart guidelines, the service will ensure all sun protection measures are applied to children and staff in **terms 1, 3 and 4, and whenever the UV is 3 and above at other times.** UV ratings are monitored during the Month of May and Sun protection procedures are followed when the UV rating is 3 and above.

4.2 Shade

- Children are actively encouraged to use shade outdoor play.
- Outdoor activities will be planned to occur in shaded areas.
- The centre ensures there are shaded areas for outdoors play which now includes shaded outdoor learning areas for children.
- Staff will assess where shade falls and plan accordingly and will use portable shade options on occasions.
- A shade audit will be conducted annually and plans developed to improve shade where necessary.
- Children who do not have hats or appropriate clothing are asked to play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.

4.3 Hats

- Parents must provide children with a brim, bucket or legionnaire hat that covers the face, neck, ear and crown of the head whenever they are outside or on an excursion away from the centre during terms 1, 3 and 4, 1 and when the UV rating is 3 or above during May. Staff must wear hats also at these times.
- Caps and hoods are not permitted as a form of sun protection in the centre.
- Staff will ensure children are wearing a sun safe hat when outdoors and if not will ensure they play indoors, on the veranda or in a shaded area.
- A reminder in person, via phone or through a note will be given to parents of children who attend the centre in a non-sun safe hat or who do not bring a hat. Occasionally all families will also be reminded about the need appropriate hats. All hats must be Department for Education approved for safety and must not have a cord attached to the hat.

4.4 Clothing

- Parents are encouraged to bring children in loose fitting, sun protective clothing that protects as much of the skin as possible. This includes tops with collars and elbow length sleeves, and longer style shorts and skirts. Children wearing singlet tops or dresses are required to wear a t-shirt or shirt over the top, or play indoors or on the verandah.

4.5 Sunscreen

- It is the parent's responsibility to apply SF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen to the child just prior to arriving at the centre or upon arrival.
- Whenever the UV is 3 and above, staff ensures that sunscreen is re-applied to the children and themselves 20 minutes before going outside every two hours or more frequently if it is washed or wiped off.
- Sunscreen will be stored out of the direct sun.
- Staff will monitor the expiry date of sunscreen and discard when it is out of date.
- Only with parent consent or a medical reason, will sunscreen not be applied to naturally dark children or children with a skin condition or allergy.
- Parents are asked to supply an alternate sunscreen for their child's condition wherever possible.
- Children without sunscreen will be required to play indoors, or in an area protected from the sun.

4.6 Babies

- Children under 12 months of age are not to be exposed to direct sunlight when the UV index is 3 or above. Babies are kept covered using clothing, hats and wraps.
- Programs where babies and toddlers are attending are kept inside by the program facilitators.
- Sunscreen should be applied to small areas of exposed skin not protected by clothing or hats, for infants 6 months and older.

4.7 Water

Children are frequently offered water and there must be watered available indoors and outdoors with easy access to water and cups throughout the day.

4.8 Role Modelling

- Staff, students and visitors (including parents/guardians staying at the centre or helping at the centre) will act as positive role models and demonstrate Sun Smart behaviour when attending the service by:
- Wearing a sun safe hat
- Applying SPF30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen when outdoors
- Using and promoting shade
- Wearing sun protective clothing

4.9 Excursions

- Sun protection will be considered when excursions are planned with consideration given to time of day and availability of shade.
- Children will wear hats if necessary when visiting the school.
- When possible children will walk through the campus school to go to the library/assembly and other school events to minimise the use of taking hats.

4.10 Education

Sun protection is part of the learning program

4.11 Information

- Sun protection information will be promoted to staff, families and visitors.
- Upon enrolment, families are asked to sign a permission to re-apply sun screen during the day.
- During the Orientation process, families are informed of the centre's sun protection policy, and the importance of a hat and type, applying sunscreen before attending the centre, and wearing appropriate clothing for being outside in the sun.

4.12 Vitamin D

Sun protection is not necessary in term 2, when the UV is below 3. During these times staff and children are encouraged to head outdoors without sun protection for vitamin D. Sensible sun protection when the UV is 3 and above does not put people at risk of vitamin D deficiency.

4.13 Policy

- The Sun Protection policy is made available to staff, families and visitors (on occasion when visitors are engaged outdoors) and services using the facilities of the Children's Centre
- The policy is monitored and reviewed annually.
- Cancer Council SA SunSmart early childhood guidelines are used to review the policy each year.