

Sun Protection Policy

Policy Statement

The Centre takes every reasonable precaution to protect children and staff from the harmful effects of exposure to the sun while they are at the Centre or at any event organised by the Centre.

The *Sun Protection Policy* is consistent with the Cancer Council's SunSmart recommendations for outdoor environments, clothing, sunscreen, scheduling of activities, and ongoing education for the children, families and staff at the Centre

Links to the Education and Care Centres National Regulations 2018, National Quality Standards 2018

Regs	S.167	Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazard
	100	Risk assessment must be conducted before excursions
	113	Outdoor space: natural environment
	114	Outdoor space: shade
	136	First aid qualifications
	168	Policies and procedures: Sun protection
	168	
	(2)(a)(ii)	
	170	Policies and procedures to be followed
	171	Policies and procedures to be kept available
	172	Notification of change to policies or procedures

National Quality Standard 2018

QA	2	Children's Health & Safety
		2.1, 2.1.1, 2.1.3, 2.2, 2.21
QA	3	Physical Environment
		3.1.1

Procedure:

- The *Sun Protection Policy* is explained to parents when they enrol their child in the Centre, and their attention is specifically drawn to their responsibilities under this Policy. Sun protection procedures are also included in the Parent Handbook given to all parents.
- The sun safety message is promoted and positively reinforced amongst families through notice boards, newsletters and providing them with up-to-date SunSmart materials.
- Educators promote sun safety awareness in children by including it in daily routines and intentional teaching such as role-modeling, discussions, games, and SunSmart resources.
- The centre utilises the outdoor playground of the local school grounds which contains a combination of built and natural shade features. Children are directed to the appropriate shade cover when required. Shade structures are assessed annually and any maintenance required is discussed with the school.
- Children play outdoors at the discretion of the educators who take into account the weather and are guided by the routines and children's interests.
- All staff model positive SunSmart behaviour to the children by:
 - wearing broad-brimmed or legionnaire styled hats and appropriate clothing for all outdoor activities
 - using SPF 50+ broad-spectrum, water resistant sunscreen

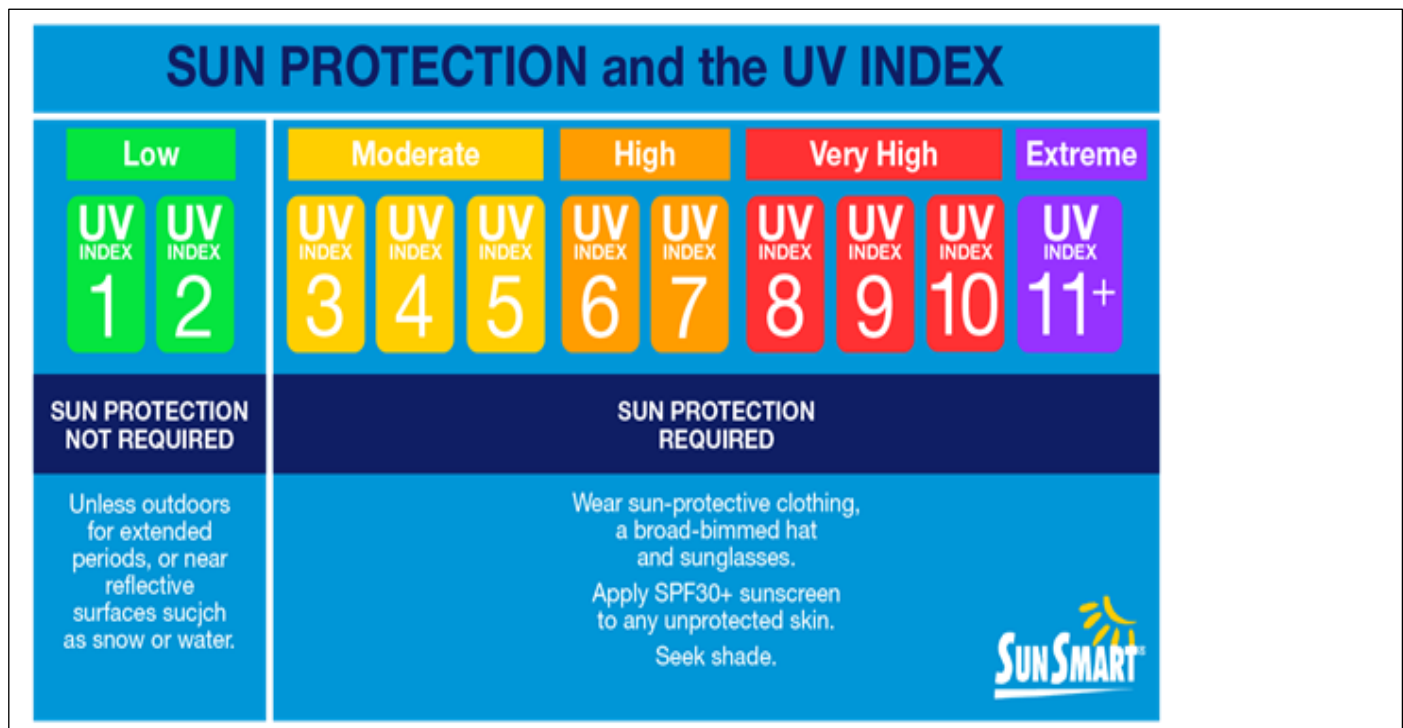
- seeking shade whenever possible
 - wearing sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard (AS/NZS1067:2003) QA
- The service supplies 50+ broad-spectrum, waterproof sunscreen for children and staff. The sunscreen is available in the room and educators ensure that all children are made aware of its location. Parents are required to notify the service in writing if their child is allergic to sunscreen, and to supply an alternative clearly labeled with the child's name.
- All sun protection practices will be maintained while on all excursions. This will be included in the excursions risk assessment. This will also be included in the permission form. Excursions will be conducted during vacation care.
- Educators ensure that all children are wearing a hat. Children will be able to wear their school purchased hat even though it is recommended that they wear a broad-brimmed hat, legionnaire style hat, or bucket hat with a deep crown. Any child who has not brought an appropriate hat will be asked to play in the shade.
 - Educators, children, and visitors are required to wear sun safe hats at all times they are outdoors
 - *Please note: Baseball caps or visors do not provide enough sun protection and therefore are not a suitable alternative*
- Water is offered to children frequently throughout the day regardless of whether they are indoors or outdoors.
- Educators encourage the children to liberally apply broad spectrum water resistant sunscreen with an SPF of 50+ to all exposed areas of children's skin when they arrive at the service in the afternoon.
 - Applied 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapply every 2 hours or more frequently if washed or wiped off
- where children have allergies or sensitivity to the sunscreen, parents are asked to provide an alternative sunscreen, or the child is required to play in the shade. A record of any allergy must be provided in writing from the parent/guardian and recorded on the child's enrolment record. Cancer Council Australia recommends usage tests before applying a new sunscreen
- sunscreen is stored in a supervised, cool, dry place and the use-by-date monitored.
- Educators reapply sunscreen every two hours, in the summer months, if children are outdoors for a prolonged period, or more frequently if the children are perspiring or involved with water play. Older children apply their own sunscreen under supervision.
- Educators are kept up-to-date with SunSmart recommendations.
- Many playground surfaces and equipment can exceed temperatures greater than 50°C and if young children come into contact with these surfaces, they can be burned severely within seconds. Therefore all outside areas are monitored before the child has access and during play.

The UV rating Monitoring and Outdoor Activities

Sun protection is required when UV levels reach level 3 or above and are used for all outdoor activities at the centre and when on excursions. Active outdoor play is encouraged throughout the day all year provided appropriate sun protection measures are used when necessary.

Sunprotection will be made available each day and provided to the child if they ask. Educators can utilize the sunsmart app on ipad, tablet or iphone.

The Educators will follow the recommended precautions indicated in the UV chart below.



Responsibilities of parents

- To provide a hat for their child each time their child attends the service, and to ensure the hat is clearly named and kept clean.
- To dress their child in suitable clothing especially keeping in mind muffed days, when children are not required to wear their school uniform or vacation care days, including spares, each time the child attends the service.
 - Children who are not wearing sun safe clothing will be required to play under shade or in an area protected from the sun
- To model positive SunSmart behaviour to the children when at the service.
- To notify the service in writing if their child is allergic to sunscreen, and to supply an alternative sunscreen clearly labelled with the child's name.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Our Sun Safe Policy will be updated and reviewed annually in consultation with families, staff, educators and management.

Sources, further reading and useful websites

Sources

- Cancer Council Queensland. *Early childhood settings: SunSmart Policy Guidelines* <http://www.cancerqld.org.au/f/OrderBrochures/Medical/> accessed 19 December 2011
- Shaw, M. (2011). *Keeping sun safe in child care* <http://ncac.acecqa.gov.au/educator-resources/pcf-articles/KeepingSunSafeMar2011.pdf> accessed 6 March 2012
- <http://www.sunsmart.com.au/communities/early-childhood-primary-schools/s> accessed 20th April, 2024, sample-policies
- www.myuv.com.au
- Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2021). [Sun Protection- Policy Guidelines](#)
- Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2024). [Guide to the National Quality Framework](#).
- Australian Government Department of Education. [My Time, Our Place- Framework for School Age Care in Australia.V2.0, 2022](#)
- Bureau of meteorology. Home page (for UV Index): <http://www.bom.gov.au/uv/>
- Australian Government. Bureau of Meteorology. <http://www.bom.gov.au/weather-services/severe-weather-knowledge-centre/warnings.shtml>
- Cancer Council Australia. Be SunSmart. <https://www.cancer.org.au/cancer-information/causes-and-prevention/sun-safety/be-sunsmart>
- Cancer Council. Home page: <https://www.cancer.org.au/>
- Cancer Council. Preventing cancer: Sun protections. <https://www.cancer.org.au/cancer-information/causes-and-prevention/sun-safety>
- Children's Services Act 1996
- Cancer Council. SunSmart programs <http://www.sunsmartnsw.com.au/about/>
- Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).
- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2018).
- [Education and Care Services National Regulations](#). (2011)
- Kidsafe NSW. [How Hot is Too Hot To Play?](#)
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- Safe Work Australia: [Guide on exposure to solar ultraviolet radiation \(UVR\) \(2019\)](#).
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Comments:

Please note: Certain health conditions and medications mean some people are more sensitive to UV radiation and need to use sun protection at all times regardless of the UV levels. Please make sure your policy includes the particular needs of these children and staff at your school/service. For further information visit [Risk factors for skin cancer](#)

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