

Clothing Policy

Policy Statement

As the service provides care for school age children before and after school, children will be in their compulsory school uniform, any clothing considerations will be more in consideration for vacation care.

The Policy provides families with information about suitable clothing for their child to wear whilst at the service. It is consistent with recommendations from recognised authorities such as SunSmart, SIDS and Kids and Kidsafe. The Policy also takes into account the range of activities children are involved in at the service, the weather, and the need to encourage children's independence and self-help skills.

Family preferences and values, cultural or otherwise, with regard to clothing are respected and accommodated without compromising children's safety whilst at the service.

Links Education and Care Centres National Regulations 2018, National Quality Standard 2018

NQS 2.1 Each child's wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child's need for sleep, rest and relaxation.

Procedures

- The service informs families about suitable clothing for the vacation care program for their children whilst at the service for safe indoor and outdoor play and sun safety. This information is provided through newsletters, notice boards.
- Educators include in the vacation care program planned and spontaneous discussions and experiences about appropriate clothing for weather, seasons, and different types of activities.
- Educators ensure children are dressed appropriately throughout the day. This includes some adjustments that may need to be made during the day through changes in weather and in the activities children are involved in (e.g. active play, messy play). Families are provided with a reminder to suitable clothing requirements as the weather changes through newsletters.
- Educators, students and volunteers are considered to be role models for children and are expected to meet the service's dress requirements when at the service.
- Parents are asked to label every item of their child's clothing (including spares) brought to the service.

When dressing their child for a VACATION CARE day at the service, parents are also asked to consider:

Sun protection

Refer to the service's *Sun Protection policy*.

- Children are to wear t-shirts with sleeves no sleeveless tops, singlet tops or strappy dresses are allowed.
- Children are to wear hats whilst outdoors.
- Educators are to positively role model the sun protection procedures.

Active play

- Children need to wear clothes that are non-restrictive, durable and can be easily laundered so that they can participate freely in all of the activities available at the service. Such items as: long skirts; hooded jumpers with cords; hats with cords and toggles are not suitable because they pose safety risks when children are climbing and running. Children are to wear enclosed shoes at all times.

Weather conditions

- Parents are asked to dress their children according to weather conditions and temperatures and to provide a supply of clothing in their child's bag for possible changes in the weather throughout the day for example a hat and a jumper for cooler weather changes.

Art and craft activities / messy activities

- During vacation care Parents are asked to dress their child in clothing that allows participation in messy activities, and can be easily laundered. Good or 'special' clothes are not suitable because children can become distressed if these become marked.
- Children participating in art and craft, clay or water play, cooking or any other form of messy play will be encouraged to wear one of the service's protective aprons/ shirts.
- If families wish to send a specific set of clothes in with their child they can get changed after school in the toilets. This may apply to children requiring uniforms for sporting activities or attending a special function afterwards.

Independence and self-help skills

- Educators encourage children's self-help skills (e.g. taking off and putting on shoes and socks, removing clothing, pulling up clothing after toileting).
- In order to facilitate children's self help and independence, parents are asked to dress children in:
 - clothes they can undo easily and remove quickly for toileting.
 - shoes that are easiest to put on, such as those with velcro clips.

Excursions

- The service provides parents with information about suitable clothing for any planned excursion, and parents are asked to dress their child accordingly, and also to pack spare clothing suitable for the excursion if necessary.

Footwear

- Children are to wear enclosed non-slip shoes that are flexible and provide a good grip. Thongs, clogs and gumboots are not suitable for running and climbing.

Spare clothing

- Parents are encouraged to provide spare clothing for their children such as underwear and a spare pair of shorts especially in kindergarten to year 2.
- The Centre has a supply of spare clothing, consistent with its *Clothing Policy*, to be used when needed. If a child needs to use these clothes, parents are asked to launder and return them as soon as possible.

Soiled clothing

- Soiled clothing is placed in a plastic bag which is stored in a container out of the reach of children. Parents are asked to collect any bagged soiled clothing at the end of each day.

Comments:

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