

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

Reqs	100	Risk assessment must be conducted before excursions
	113	Outdoor space: natural environment
	114	Outdoor space: shade
	168	Policies and procedures: Sun protection
	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 Childrens Health & Safety

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 30+ broad-spectrum, water resistant sunscreen
 - seeking shade whenever possible
 - wearing sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard (AS/NZS1067:2003) QA
- The service supplies 30+ 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.
- 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 sunscreen with an SPF of 30+ to all exposed areas of children's skin when they arrive at the service in the afternoon.
- 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.

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 muffedays, when children are not required to wear their school uniform or vacation care days, including spares, each time the child attends the service.
- 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.

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, 2019, sample-policies

Comments:

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