

D-5 SUN PROTECTION AND DRESS CODE

POLICY STATEMENT

We are committed to providing children with a safe environment that provides shade and other sun protection to support their learning and opportunities for play. The vast majority of skin cancers, including melanoma, are caused by over-exposure to UV radiation from the sun. As such, this policy is designed to support children's health, safety and wellbeing in accordance with the Education and Care Services national Regulations.

Outdoor play experiences are an important part of children's healthy growth, learning, wellbeing and development. We ensure that the outdoor environment offers the required shade and that other sun protection measures are implemented. Our educators and staff role model quality educational practices, including sun safe practices to support children's learning and development of sun protection awareness.

PROCEDURES

a) Sun Safe Procedures

- Staff will direct children to wear hats for outdoor play when exposed to the sun when the UV index is 3 or above. Bureau of Meteorology website and app for published details of daily UV index.
- Children who do not have a hat must play in a sheltered area. Educators will enforce the rule that where a child has not got a hat or is wearing clothing that is not recommended as appropriate they must access shaded areas in which to play.
- The service will prominently display times for each day when the UV index is 3 or above.
- In before and after school care, hat wearing will be enforced only when children are within the centre grounds. Educators will remind children to wear hats when travelling to and from the bus stops to school each day but will not enforce it at these times due to the logistics of managing the journey safely.
- The service will maintain a pool of spare hats which will be regularly washed, which children may use.
- An SPF 30+, broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen will be available at the centre for staff and children to use. The application of sunscreen every 3 hours will be enforced during vacation care, teacher strikes and pupil free days when the UV index is 3 or above, unless families advise otherwise.
- Permission to apply sunscreen will be included as part of the enrolment procedure. Educators will respect the parents' right to refuse authorisation to apply sunscreen however will require children to wear appropriate clothing or play in the shade.

- This policy will be available to families via the service website and will be referenced in the family information booklet provided to families on enrolment.
- Educators will use opportunities to discuss with children sun protection and demonstrate a positive and proactive approach to the management of sun protection in the service.
- The centre will limit the number of outdoor activities between the hours of 11am and 3pm during daylight saving time and 10am and 2pm at other times.
- Extended outdoor activities will be held in shaded areas whenever possible.
- Where shade is considered inadequate, management will be approached to provide additional shade cover.
- The service will incorporate sun and skin protection awareness in the program and provide notices and posters on the topic.
- Sun protection practices will be maintained while on excursions.
- Educators will wear hats at all times when working outside and exposed to the sun when the UV index is 3 or above. Sunscreen will be available for educators to use when working outdoors but the decision to apply it will remain a personal one.
- No educator should remain on outside supervision duty for more than 2 hours at a time during the hours of 10am – 2pm during daylight saving or 11am – 3pm.
- Educators are advised to wear sunglasses when working outdoors. Those recommended should meet the approved Australian Standards AS1067 which block out 100% of harmful UV rays. The frames should have side panels with UV protection and should touch the upper brow area so as to limit the amount of UV radiation emitted into the eye area.
- With all items provided for staff by the centre (such as hats, sunglasses, uniforms), staff are responsible to keep them in good order. If they become lost or damaged through no fault of the centre, the staff member must replace them at their own expense.

b) Dress code

Children:

- When outdoors children will be encouraged to wear sun safe clothing with sleeves, collars or covered necklines. Families will be reminded to supply a suitable hat and sun safe clothing via the vacation care programme, newsletters, emails and other methods of communication.

Educators:

- When exposed to the sun educators will wear protective clothing when outside including hats that protect face, ears and neck, and shirts that cover shoulders and necks.
- Sun safety practices must be followed all year round in all weather conditions when the UV index is 3 or above.
- A code of dress for educators will be maintained in accordance with work, health and safety guidelines and to role model sun safety behaviour for children.
- Educators must wear a close weave polo style shirt with collar and sleeves which covers the entire torso area.

- Hats must be worn when working outside which are broad brimmed all the way around with the crown covered.
- Sunglasses and sunscreen are recommended.
- Shoes must be fully enclosed on the toe area and heels must be less than 6cm high.
- Educators may wear shorts, pants or skirts as they please with hemlines below mid-thigh.
- An optional uniform shirt with service logo will be provided for educators who wish to wear one (up to a maximum of 2), with provision made via the service budget. Uniform shirts must be returned at cessation of tenure.

a) Roles and responsibilities

Approved Provider:

- Ensure that obligations under the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations are met.
- Take reasonable steps to ensure that the nominated supervisor, educators and staff follow the policy and procedures.
- Ensure adequate shading over areas for both active and passive outdoor play
- Ensure access to an adequate supply of in-date sunscreen for children, educators and staff
- Ensure that this policy is readily accessible to nominated supervisors, coordinators, educators, staff, volunteers and families, and available for inspection.
- Notify families at least 14 days before changing the policy or procedures if the changes will affect the fees charged or the way they are collected, significantly impact the service's education and care of children or significantly impact the family's ability to utilise the service.

Nominated Supervisor:

- Implement the Sun protection policy and procedures, ensuring all action plans that are in place are carried out.
- Ensure that educators and staff follow the policy and procedures.
- Monitor the UVI daily, identify when and how any sun protection changes need to occur, and communicate this to educators and staff.
- Promote sun safe practices with all children, families, educators and staff within the service.

Educators:

- Implement the Sun Protection policy and procedures.
- Monitor the UVI daily and manage outdoor play and learning accordingly.
- Monitor the impact of sun on play equipment and surfaces that children will be touching and using such as soft fall mats, artificial surfacing, etc.
- Role-model sun safe practices.
- Communicate with families about sun safe practices in general and specific expectations within the service (e.g. wearing protective clothing).

CONSIDERATIONS

National Quality Standards

2.2	Safety	Each child is protected
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard
3.1.1	Fit for purpose	Outdoor and indoor spaces, buildings, fixtures and fittings are suitable for their purpose, including supporting the access of every child
3.2.1	Inclusive environment	Outdoor and indoor spaces are organised and adapted to support every child's participation and to engage every child in quality experiences in both built and natural environments
7.1.2	Management systems	Systems are in place to manage risk and enable the effective management and operation of a quality service

Education and Care Service National Regulations 2011

100	Risk assessment must be conducted before excursion
113	Outdoor space—natural environment
114	Outdoor space—shade
168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures
172	Notification of change to policies or procedures
Section 167	Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards

Related Policies / Forms

<p>Family Information Booklet</p> <p>D-12 Providing a child safe environment policy</p> <p>D-16 Excursions</p> <p>A-10 Governance and management</p>
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ENDORSEMENT AND REVIEWS

Date	Action
06.12.2012	Approved by SNCC Board
20.08.2020	Previous Date Reviewed
01.04.2024	Policy Updated
April 2027	Next Review Date