

Aberfoyle Hub Preschool Hot Weather Policy

Rationale:

At our centre we recognise that children are at greater risk of suffering from heat illness than adults.

A child's ability to respond to environmental heat and acclimatise to heat is due to physiological differences.

Children sweat less and get less evaporative cooling than adults and have greater difficulty in getting rid of heat. "Sports Medicine Australia" 2008

Inside, our centres we have effective air conditioning and ceiling fans which are used as required in hot weather.

Outside, we have large verandahs, trees and play areas covered with shade cloth where children play in hot weather.

Aims:

The aim of the Aberfoyle Hub Preschool hot weather policy is to outline specific strategies to reduce the risk of heat illness to young children.

Implementation:

All employees must take reasonable care to protect their own health and safety and that of others in the workplace.

Shade: In hot weather all activities are conducted in shaded areas.

Drinks: Cold filtered water is available at all times to children and they are frequently reminded to have drinks.

Clothing: Parents are encouraged to dress children in clothing that minimises heat gain, in layers that can be easily removed and of a type that is sunsafe.

Food: Parents are encouraged to pack food in insulated containers with a freezer pack enclosed. At Taylors Road, children's food is to be kept in the trays provided inside where the building is air conditioned.

At Hub Drive, lunches are stored in the fridge in the kitchen.

Parents and caregivers are able to wait inside the building when collecting children.

Program: In hot weather, staff will modify the program and selection and placement of activities in accordance to the weather conditions and our sun protection policy.

In case of the breakdown of one cooling system, the other cooling system will be activated.

In case of a lengthy power blackout, the inside temperature and the reactions of children will be monitored and parents will be notified if their children are heat affected.

Children who are unable to be collected early will be supervised by staff and kept as comfortable as possible.

Children at Taylors Road who would be returning to the next door child care centre after the session may be taken across earlier after consultation with the child care centre.

Refer also to Sun Protection Policy

Endorsed by staff and Governing Council 1st June 2017

Reviewed in 2 years

NQS Area 2 "Children's Health and Safety"

2.3.2 Reasonable steps are taken to identify and manage risks, and every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and hazards

- The service will provide a safe and comfortable environment for children
- Heating and cooling equipment provided to maintain a comfortable temperature for children
- Sun protection advice from Cancer Council is implemented