

Balharrie Memorial Kindergarten and Rural Care

Hot Weather Policy

NQS link: 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 comfortable and safe environment for children; Heating and cooling equipment provided to maintain a comfortable temperature for children; sun protection advice from the Cancer Council

Rationale

The purpose of this policy is to outline site strategies aimed at reducing the risk of heat illness to young children during hot weather.

Strategies

These strategies are in addition to the sun safe policies and procedures.

In the event of hot weather educators will:

- Facilitate routines and programs in shaded areas
 - Endeavour to maintain an indoor temperature that provides for the comfort of each child
 - Ensure all children are frequently offered and have access to water at all times
 - Encourage parents to dress children in clothing that minimises heat gain, in layers that can be easily removed during activity and of a type that is sun safe
- Refer www.arpansa.gov.au/radiationprotection/factsheets/is_UVProtection.cfm
- Encourage parents to transport children's food in insulated containers with a freezer brick or frozen water
 - Ensure that there is sufficient storage in the centre fridge for parents to store children's food that requires refrigeration
 - Recognise that parents delivering and collecting children must also be provided with an environment which minimises the risk of heat related illness to them, their child and their family
 - In extenuating circumstances, such as no air conditioning in extreme heat, early dismissal will occur. Staff will remain on duty and children who are unable to be collected will be kept as comfortable as possible. Families will be notified individually of the extenuating circumstance so they can collect their child/children if able to.
 - Some of the school buses do not have air-conditioning so you may consider collecting your children. If you do decide to collect your children, please let us know **before 3pm**.

- On hot days, **rubber play surfaces** subjected to direct sunlight can heat to a high temperature, placing children at risk of burn injuries.
- Assessing the risk is easy: If an **adult** cannot comfortably hold their hand on a surface for a slow count of five, it is not a safe surface for children to play on.
- During warmer weather, such testing is to be conducted by a staff member before each play session, as early morning coolness might give way to hotter conditions later in the day.
- Staff to ensure children do not access play surfaces and equipment that is too hot.
- If the forecast temperature is to be 36 degrees or higher, excursions from the kindergarten or rural care will be cancelled and rescheduled.

References

Sun Smart - Cancer Council of SA

www.cancersa.org.au/asp/sunsmart.aspx

DECD Hot Weather Policy - Preschools

www.decd.sa.gov.au/docs/documents/1/HotWeatherGuidelinesPresc.pdf

DECD Capital programs and asset services issue 1 2012

Lucindale Area School Hot Weather Policy