

# Blakeview Preschool

## Inclement Weather Policy



The aim of this policy is to maintain the health, safety and welfare of children and adults at all times when outside in the weather. Inclement weather may be caused by electrical storms, excessive heat/cold, wind, rain, dust, smoke, etc.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

#### **Leadership/Nominated supervisor will:**

- Make the decision regarding the implementation of the Inclement Weather Policy.
- Ensure this policy is understood by educators and implemented in the kindergarten.
- Review policy as needed in consultation with staff.
- Contact SA Power Network on 131 366 in the case of a power failure/blackout (if possible). If blackout is expected to last for an extended period of time, the Leader may close the Centre at their discretion in consultation with DECD Security and Emergency Hotline (1800 00 279) and the Education Director.
- Manage and oversee incidents where inclement weather causes injuries or property damage.

#### **Educators will:**

- Ensure outside play areas will be shaded as much as possible and encourage children to play in covered areas.
- Ensure children wear hats outside when the UV rating is 3 or above.
- Ensure children wear appropriate clothing for the weather i.e. layers for cold weather, light clothing for hot days, dry clothes after playing in water etc.
- Offer and encourage indoor play on days with extreme hot weather, storms or strong winds.
- Undertake risk assessments for outdoor play experiences if the weather is unpredictable or there are weather warnings.
- Activate appropriate cooling and heating systems for comfort and relief in times of hot or cool weather. All air conditioning and heating systems are adjustable to suit the weather and temperature. Monitor the temperature in the centre.
- Ensure water is provided for children at all times. Remind children to drink liquids more frequently on days with excessive temperatures.
- During hot weather, offer experiences such as water play and supervise these at all times (see DECD Preschool Water Safety Procedure, 2015).
- Contact parents/caregivers and follow first aid/emergency procedures if a child shows signs of dehydration, heat stroke or hypothermia.
- Exercise caution for outdoor activities when weather warnings have been issued by Bureau of Meteorology, even if a Severe Weather warning is not yet in place.
- Check the Bureau of Meteorology website throughout the day where strong wind warnings are present to monitor the possibility of severe weather warnings developing.

**Families will:**

- Be encouraged to send children to preschool in weather appropriate clothing, e.g. for sun exposure, including clothes that cover their shoulders, hats and sunscreen, and warm clothing for cold weather. Spare clothing should be provided by families.
- Be required to collect children if they become unwell due to weather extremes.
- Be required to collect children if a blackout onsite is expected to last for an extended period of time (at the discretion of the Leader/Educators).

**Excursions**

- Educators, in their planning of an excursion, will, as part of the risk-assessment process, take into account what the temperature may be for that period of time.
- All excursions will be reviewed by the Educator/s and Leadership if the temperature is expected to be 35C or over for the area in which they are travelling.
- An excursion may be postponed or cancelled if it includes travelling into or through a High Fire or Flood risk area.

**References**

- Inclement Weather Procedure, DECD, August 2021.
- Preschool Water Safety Procedure, DECD, March 2022.
- Sunsmart early childhood policy guidelines, Updated by Cancer Council SA, April 2016

Created: 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018  
Endorsed: 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018  
Reviewed: May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020  
Reviewed: June 17<sup>th</sup> 2022  
To be reviewed: 2024