



## **INCLEMENT AND HOT WEATHER POLICY**

This policy recognises that children are at greater risk of suffering from hypothermia and hyperthermia than adults and that a child's ability to respond to environmental extremes is due to physiological differences. This policy includes the Hot Weather Procedures.

### **Inclement weather**

Inclement weather is the existence of abnormal climatic conditions including but not limited to the following or any combination thereof:

- Extreme high temperatures
- Exposure to UV
- Rain
- Hail
- High winds
- Severe dust or electrical storm
- High humidity

### **Context**

#### **Outdoor Area**

Crystal Brook Kindergarten has a large outdoor area with mature pine trees at rear of yard, as well as large shade structures over our sandpit, lawn area, digging patch and mud kitchen areas.

#### **Veranda**

A large deck area is attached to the building. Shade cloth blinds can be pulled down when required.

#### **Air conditioning and heating**

- Split system air conditioning and heating units are in the office, quiet room and rest / relaxation room.
- Two refrigerated reverse cycle units are located at back of the building and have ducts in the main area.

### **Strategies for minimising risks for children attending Crystal Brook Kindergarten on extreme weather days**

As part of outdoor yard inspection and preventative maintenance checks, ensure that the tree audits are conducted and trim large trees as required.

On days of extreme weather, educators will use their professional judgement and information (eg. weather warnings from the Bureau of Meteorology, weather reports and observations) to assess risks, including the possibility of falling branches and trees on windy days, then implement appropriate strategies that may include the following:

**Outdoor play may be:**

- restricted to a shorter period of time
- offered in the morning only
- cancelled altogether
- only under the veranda

**Inclement and Hot Weather Policy****Parents may be:**

Asked to use their judgement and consider the level of risk posed to their child during transportation to and from Kindergarten.

**Strategies for minimising heat related stress for children attending Crystal Brook Kindergarten on hot weather days****Children and adults**

Monitor all children and adults at the centre and follow emergency procedures if anyone shows signs of dehydration, heat stroke or hyperthermia, including contacting parents/caregivers.

**Activities**

Activities conducted in periods of hot weather will be undertaken in shaded areas and will be reduced to the “less active” type. Water play activities will be offered to the children when practical.

**Drinks**

Staff will frequently remind children to drink water. There is access to drinking water at all times. We encourage children to bring their own drink bottles filled with water only. These can be refilled at kitchen. Cups are provided for the children to use if they have forgotten their water bottle.

**Food**

Children are encouraged to put their morning snack and drink bottle inside the building when it is hot. Separate containers will be provided for these. Lunch boxes are refrigerated throughout the day.

**Clothing**

Parents are encouraged to dress children in sun safe clothing that minimises heat gain, in layers that can be easily removed either by the child or staff.

**Surfaces**

Prior to children engaging in outdoor play on hot days, staff will check the surface temperature of items such as swings, climbing equipment and slide in order to prevent burn injuries. This is to be checked by placing their hand on the surface for a slow count of five.

**Power blackout/failure**

During a power blackout or failure, SA Power Network are to be contacted on 131 366. If the Kindergarten becomes too hot, parents are to be notified and children collected. Monitor food stored in the fridge and dispose of food that has sat between 5 and 60 degrees Celsius for longer than four hours. Consider closing the Kindergarten until the power is restored.

**Strategies for minimising risks on cold days****Experiences**

Active experiences will be provided for to allow children to move their bodies.

**Clothing**

Parents are encouraged to dress children in warm clothing, including jackets and beanies.

### **Incident Management Reporting**

Incidents are managed as follows:

- Contact parents and caregivers when required
- Complete an IRMS report and follow procedures
- Contact other emergency personnel as required
- Preserve incident sites

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