



Fraser Park Preschool-7 School



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

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Hot Weather Policy

NQS

QA2	2.2	Safety	Each child is protected
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National Regulations

Regs	114	Outer space—shade
	168 (2) (a)	Education and care service must have policies and procedures Policies and procedures are required in relation to the following— (a) health and safety, including matters relating to (ii) sun protection

RATIONALE

South Australia experiences temperatures in excess of 36⁰ Celsius during its summer months. At times these extreme temperatures can last for several days or weeks, and occasionally result in bushfire. Given that prolonged exposure to extreme temperatures can result in individuals suffering dehydration, illness and in some cases death it is important that children and staff are protected from these deleterious effects.

In the event of extreme temperatures this Hot Weather Policy is to be enacted.

Aims

The policy aims to:

- Provide ongoing education and promote personal responsibility for coping during extreme hot weather.
- Promote positive attitudes towards preventing dehydration and illness associated with heat exposure.
- Raise awareness of appropriate environmental structures (natural and man-made) that reduce the level of exposure to the sun.

Related Policies

Sun Protection Policy

Implementation

BEHAVIOUR

In the case of extreme hot weather, as forecast at 7:30am on Radio 5MU, we will:

- Activate air-conditioners in the morning (set to 18-20° C).
- Restrict outside play to shaded areas and as the temperatures rise encourage inside play.
- Provide drinking water for children to access throughout the day.
- Offer children opportunities to drink water or fluids regularly.
- Provide SPF 30 + broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for staff and child use.
- Encourage families to dress children in clothing that minimises heat gain, is in layers which can be easily removed and that is sun-safe.
- Encourage families to pack lunches in insulated containers with an ice pack
- Move lunch boxes to the kitchen and refrigerate any milk products.
- In case of bushfire enact the sites Bushfire Evacuation Plan.
- Staff to check outside surfaces that could potentially burn children.
- In the case of a hot play surface outside staff will discourage children from using it.
- Encourage children to use available areas of shade for outdoor activities.
- Staff will direct children who are not wearing hats (in term1 and 4) to either put on a hat or to play in shaded areas.
- Staff actively model wearing broad-brimmed hats while on duty and on outside activities.
- Regularly reinforce the Sun Protection Policy in a positive way through newsletters, student/child and staff activities.
- When enrolling their child, families will be informed of the Sun Protection Policy.
- School families will be requested to purchase a school hat if their child loses the school issued hat.
- Regular observation of children by staff when outside (in terms 1 and 4) to monitor hat usage.

On days of extreme heat ($\geq 36^{\circ}\text{C}$) the Hot Weather Policy will be enacted.

CURRICULUM

- Offer activities that are appropriate for hot weather conditions
- Incorporate programs related to sun safety into the curriculum at all grade levels
- Regularly reinforce Sun Smart behaviours in a positive way through newsletters, family meetings, student/children and staff activities.

- Ensure the Sun Protection policy is reflected in the planning of all outdoor events (e.g. Camps, excursions, sporting events).
- Ongoing evaluation and updating of curriculum in terms of its skin cancer prevention as applicable, and in response to the relevant literature, ie Anti Cancer Council publications.

ENVIRONMENT

- Encourage preschool families to send children to preschool with sun protective clothing.
- Include sun protective clothing as optional items as part of our school dress code.
- Whenever possible, organise outdoor activities where shaded areas are accessible.
- Schedule outdoor assemblies early in the day or in an area where all students can be in shade.
- Update and promote curriculum material relevant to Sun Smart activities

EVALUATION

- Services Committee of the Governing Council will review the effectiveness of this policy each year. They will:
- Review the Sun Smart behaviour of students, staff, families and visitors and make recommendations for improvement.
- Assess shade provision and usage and make recommendations for increases in shade in conjunction with the Governing Council.

Sources:

The Cancer Council of South Australia

Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare (Safe Work SA) Amendment Act 2005

Review

The policy will be reviewed every 2 years. The review will be conducted by: Governing Council, Employees, Families, and Interested Parties.

Review	Changes made	Reason
October 2018	NQS Elements National Regulations	NQS Update Fixed Errors

Revised October 2018 Ratified October 2018