

Inclement weather procedure

Inclement weather can affect everyday activities and comes in many forms. Inclement weather includes:

- extreme high temperatures
- high UV levels
- heavy rain, hail and snow
- strong winds
- severe dust storm
- lightning or thunderstorm
- flooding.

When planning outdoor events and excursions the site leader and lead teachers will complete a risk assessment and have considered the potential hazards for all locations and situations impacted by inclement weather conditions and prepare contingency plans to minimise the risk of injury and illness from inclement weather.

Inclement weather conditions

The site leader will:

Monitor, or delegate someone to monitor, daily weather forecasts (eg [Bureau of Meteorology](#)) and identify any potential inclement weather risks.

During and following a period of inclement weather the following will be monitored and considered:

- the health and safety risks to employees, children/young people before allowing them to undertake outdoor activities. Educators will follow children's safety and risk management plans.
- Educators/visitors or children having trouble breathing triggered by dust, thunderstorms or panic.
- tree debris such as leaves, nuts and branches that might pose a slip or trip hazard.
- damaged tree limbs and branches that may fall.
- wet floors/stairs and children's climbing surfaces.
- Signs of an approaching storm such as dark sky, high winds, thunder and lightning.
- severe weather danger warnings.
- South Australia Country Fire Service fire danger ratings
- hot weather followed by heavy rain or wind that can affect the stability of trees.

During hot weather:

- Outdoor play takes place in the morning during the cooler parts of the day and maximized in shady areas of the yard.
- Outdoor play is restricted in the afternoon when temperatures are 35 degrees and above to indoor play and just the shaded sand pit **with water**. Children do not sweat like adults to help keep them cool so play under the verandah will also be restricted to just the morning.
- Cool spray bottles of water are kept in the fridge to only be sprayed on children's arms/legs with their permission to help them keep cool- cool flannels for the children's forehead and back of neck are also available.
- Children and educators are reminded to stay hydrated and drink plenty of water.

Sun protection

The kindergarten community including employees, students, parents and volunteers are made aware of our sun protection policy which is in effect for terms 1, 3 and 4 and whenever ultra violet (UV) radiation levels reach 3 or above. Sun protection includes:

- Wearing sun protective clothing and hats
- sunscreen application- support children with this
- [SunSmart](#) behaviours
- availability of shade in outdoor areas. (seek shade and erect shade portable shade)

*Avoid sitting under trees during prolonged hot weather as heat stress can cause branches and limbs to break. Eucalypts are especially dangerous during hot weather as they will shed healthy branches or limbs to preserve water in the rest of the tree.

Procedure updated: 12/12/2018 Updated: 12/12/2019 Updated: 09/12/2020 Updated: 10/12/2021

Updated: 3/02/2023 Added flooding and Educators/visitors or children having trouble breathing triggered by dust, thunderstorms or panic.