



Kangaroo Island Children's Services Inc

Enriching life's journey

Adopted:	
Review Date:	June 2021
Signed Governing Council Chair:	
(Governing Council Chair Name)	Claire Mincham-Trowbridge
Signed Director:	
(Director Name)	Hayley Perry

Skin Protection Policy

Rationale

Australia has one of the highest incidences of skin cancer in the world. Too much of the sun's UV radiation can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. It is estimated 95-99% of skin cancers are caused by overexposure to UV radiation, and is therefore preventable. Sun exposure during childhood and adolescence is a critical factor in determining future skin cancer risk. Young children and babies have sensitive skin that places them at particular risk of skin damage and sunburn. Children attend Early Childhood Services during the times when UV radiation levels are highest we therefore have a major role to play in minimising a child's UV exposure.

While too little UV radiation from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels, Vitamin D is essential for healthy bones and muscles, and for general health. Sensible sun protection when the UV is 3 and above does not put people at risk of vitamin D deficiency. Our policy has been developed to help reduce the risk of skin damage for children and staff at the Centre, by taking effective measures for skin/sun protection.

Procedures

Consistent with the Department for Education and SunSmart guidelines, a combination of sun protection measures will be used from 1 August to 30 April, and whenever UV radiation levels reach 3 and above at other times. At that level UV radiation is intense enough to damage our skin and contribute to the risk of skin cancer. This policy is in place all year round, and applies to all Kangaroo Island Children's Services sites.

These measures will include:

- Upon enrolment children will be provided with a broad-brimmed hat that is labelled with their name. These hats will remain at the service. Children will be required to wear these hats whenever they are outdoors at all times throughout the year.
- Parents are asked to apply sunscreen to children before, or on, arrival at the service each day. Educators will reapply sunscreen 20 minutes before going outside when the UV is 3 and above. Sunscreen will be reapplied every 2 hours if remaining outdoors, and an SPF30 or higher sunscreen will be used.
- Staff check the UV levels daily on the SunSmart app, or at www.myuv.com.au or www.bom.gov.au and are recorded near the sign in sheets.
- Educators will role model sun safe practises for children and protect their own skin by wearing a broad brimmed hat, protective clothing, sunglasses and sunscreen when outdoors.
- Infants (under the age of 12 months) will be kept out of the direct sunlight when the UV radiation is 3 and above. Infants will be protected using shade, clothing and a broad brimmed hat. For infants 6 months or older, sunscreen will be applied to small areas of exposed skin not protected by clothing or hat.

- All children are to be dressed in sun protective clothing with a collar and sleeves providing protection to the neck, shoulders, upper arms, back and stomach and preferably clothing that is closely woven for extra protection. Singlet tops, shoestring straps, halter necks and midriff or crop tops do not provide sun protection so are not suitable for child care.
- The service provides shade in areas where children gather such as for eating, playing and outdoor teaching. The use of these areas is encouraged.
- The availability of shade is considered when excursions and outdoor activities are planned. Extra care is taken during peak UV radiation times and outdoor activities are scheduled outside of these times where possible.
- Children who do not have appropriate hats and clothing on will be asked to play in an area protected from the sun.
- Age appropriate Sun Smart activities and education will be included in the curriculum. Staff will discuss with children, in appropriate ways, why sun protection is important, and to raise awareness with families.
- All Families will be asked to sign a sun safe agreement and consent form, and Educators will be informed of the policy.
- All Kangaroo Island Children's Services sites have sufficient shade structures and trees which provides adequate sun protection areas.
- If practical, children will be encouraged to wear close fitting wraparound sunglasses that provide the best protection. Eye Protection Factor (EPF) rating of 10 is recommended. It should also meet Australian Standard AS/NZS 1067.1:2016 (Sunglasses: lens category two, three or four). Toy or novelty sunglasses do not protect against UV radiation.
- Families and visitors will be encouraged to practice Sun Smart behaviours while attending functions at the service, and will be informed of our Skin Protection policy.

Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) – Kingscote

Before school care: sun protection is not required as the UV radiation levels are rarely above 3 at this time.

After school care: sun protection is required during terms 1 and 4, and whenever the UV Index is 3 and above at other times. Staff are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times to determine if sun protection measures are required during terms 2 and 3.

Vacation care: sun protection is required for all outdoor activities during terms 1, 3 and 4, and whenever the UV Index is 3 and above at other times.

Sources

Education and Care Services National Regulations

National Quality Standards

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA)

Cancer Council SA

DECD – Sun protection in Schools and Preschools

Links to other policies

Clothing Policy

Enrolment and Orientation Policy

Preschool Enrolment Policy

WH & S Policy

Child Protection Policy

Child Safe Environment Policy

Excursion Policy

Hot Weather Policy

NQS

QA1	1.1	The educational program enhances each child's learning and development.
	1.1.3	All aspects of the program, including routines, are organised in ways that maximize opportunities for each child's learning.
	1.2	Educators facilitate and extend each child's learning and development.
	1.2.3	Each child's agency is promoted, enabling them to make choices and decisions that influence events in their world.
QA2	2.1.	Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted
	2.2	Each child is protected
	2.2.1	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
QA3	3.1.1	Outdoor and indoor spaces, buildings, fixtures and fittings are suitable for their purpose, including supporting the access of every child
	3.2.1	Outdoor and indoor spaces are organised and adapted to support every child's participation and to engage every child in quality experiences in both built and natural environments.
QA4	4.1.1	The organisation of educators across the service supports children's learning and development.
QA5	5.1	Respectful and equitable relationships are maintained with each child
	5.1.1	Responsive and meaningful interactions build trusting relationships which engage and support each child to feel secure, confident and included.
	5.2.1	Children are supported to collaborate, learn from and help each other.
QA6	6.1.1	Families are supported from enrolment to be involved in the service and contribute to service decisions
	6.1.3	Current information is available to families about the service and relevant community services and resources to support parenting and family wellbeing.
QA7	7.1.	Governance supports the operation of a quality service.

Regulations

100	Risk assessment must be conducted before excursion
113	Outdoor space: natural environment
114	Outdoor space: shade
167	Protection from harm and hazards
168	Policies and procedures: sun protection