



SUN PROTECTION POLICY

RATIONALE:

At Kurralta Park Community Kindergarten we believe that all children and staff have a right to a safe and secure environment.

Australia has one of the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world, with at least two out of every three people being diagnosed with skin cancer before the age of 70. Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Melanoma is the most common cancer in Australians aged 12-24 years, and sun exposure during childhood and adolescence is a critical factor in determining future skin cancer risk.

UV radiation cannot be seen or felt, and differs from infrared radiation that we feel as heat. UV levels are determined by factors including angle of earth to the sun, time of day and time of year, but not temperature, and UV levels can be high even on cool and cloudy days. Damage from UV radiation is cumulative and irreversible.

We believe that the incidence of skin cancer and the number of related deaths can be reduced by encouraging all members of the community to take effective skin-protection measures.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Promote positive attitudes towards skin protection.
- Ensure that all children attending our centre are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun.
- Raise awareness of the potential damage that exposure to UV radiation from the sun can cause
- Encourage personal responsibility for skin protection.

SKIN PROTECTION STRATEGIES:

In line with the Department for Education and SunSmart guidelines, a combination of sun protection measures are in place during terms 1, 3 and 4, and whenever the UV is 3 and above at other times.

HAT POLICY:

- The wearing of a sun protective hat outdoors will be compulsory in terms 1, 3 & 4.
- The wearing of hats will be modeled by staff and parents will be encouraged to comply with the policy.
- The wearing of hats in term 2 will be required when the UV rating listed on the "SunSmart" website (www.sunsmart.org.au) or www.bom.gov.au is 3 and above (between the times when sun protection is recommended on the app/website). This rating will be checked each day by the outside teacher and communicated to staff.
- KPCK provide a sun protective hat that satisfies Cancer Council SunSmart guidelines (bucket, broad brim or legionnaire) so as to shade the face, back of neck and ears. Baseball caps are not an acceptable alternative.

Sun Policy reviewed 2018, 2021: Updated May 2022 (Cancer Council SA membership)

- The sharing of hats between children will not be encouraged.
- Children not wearing a sun protective hat will be required to play in shaded areas or indoors.

CLOTHING

When outdoors, children are required to wear clothing that covers as much skin as possible. Clothing made from cool, closely woven fabric is recommended. Tops with collars and elbow length sleeves, and knee length or longer style shorts and skirts are best. Children wearing singlet tops and dresses are required to wear a t-shirt or shirt over the top before going outdoors.

STAFF:

- As part of WHS UV risk controls and role modelling, staff will wear sun protective hats, sunscreen and sunglasses (if own) and sun protective clothing when outdoors at the centre and on excursions.
- Staff will set-up outdoor activities in appropriately shaded areas, and care will be taken to schedule outdoor activities outside of the peak UV radiation times of the day where possible, or in the shade. Staff will seek shade whenever possible during outdoor activities and encourage children to play in the shade as much as possible.
- A combination of sun protection measures are considered when planning outdoor activities such as excursions and water based activities.
- **When the UV is 3 and above, staff will support children to apply appropriate SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen at least 20 minutes before going outside and re-applied every two hours if outdoors, or more often if washed or wiped off.**
- Staff will include information about the importance of skin protection in the educational program for the children.
- Staff will inform the parent community of aspects of skin protection by keeping current resources such as those through Cancer Council SA and sharing these via newsletters and notice-boards.
- When the UV is below 3 sun protection measures are not required.

PARENTS:

- Parents will be made aware of this policy upon enrolment of their child at the centre. **Parents are requested to apply SPF 30 or higher, broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen before their child arrives at the centre for the morning outdoor activities.**
- **If a child cannot use the sunscreen supplied at Kindy due to allergies etc., the parent will need to supply their own sunscreen, which must be labelled and given to a staff member to be applied.**
- Parents are required to provide sun protective clothing for their child which protects as much as possible. This includes clothing with long sleeves to cover shoulders and arms and a collar to protect the back of the neck.
- Children not wearing appropriate clothing will be required to play in the shaded areas or indoors.

CENTRE MANAGEMENT:

- Make shade provision a priority in the centre's forward planning i.e. Plant shade trees, cover sandpits and play equipment with a pergola or suitable shade structure.
- Provide appropriate SPF 30+ broad spectrum sunscreen, water resistant sunscreen for use at the centre.

- Encourage visitors and parents to role model good 'Sun Smart' behaviours when attending outdoor activities with the centre

HEAT PROTECTION STRATEGIES:

On days of extreme heat:

- Staff and children need to take steps to conserve energy and to ensure their fluid levels are maintained.
- Outdoor play is to be monitored and at the discretion of the staff, children may be required to remain inside the building.

REFERENCES:

Cancer Council Helpline: 131120

Cancer Council Website: www.cancersa.org.au

Sun Smart Website: www.sunsmart.org.au

Policy review

The sun protection policy is reviewed regularly (at least every three years) to ensure the information remains current and relevant.

**POLICY REVIEWED BY GOVERNING COUNCIL IN 2021
NEXT REVIEW IN MAY 2024**



Government of South Australia
Department for Education