

MANOR FARM KINDERGARTEN



HOT WEATHER AND SUN SAFE POLICY

Aim:

- To outline how the Manor Farm Kindergarten will reduce the risk of heat illness to young children during hot weather. The policy recognises that children are at greater risk of suffering from heat illness than adults.
- To ensure children and educators are safe during hot weather conditions.
- Links to National Quality Standards:
 - 2.2 Each child is safe and protected.
 - 2.2.1 At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.

Context:

- **Outdoor area:** The Manor Farm Kindergarten has a large outdoor area with many big, mature trees, providing shade over most parts of the yard. Areas where the tree canopies do not provide shade, have been shaded with three large shade structures containing a 98% UV-B blackout. The only remaining area that receives full sun is a lawn area at the western side of the yard.
- **Verandah:** The kindergarten has a hard roof verandah, directly adjacent to the building.
- **Air conditioning:** The building has an evaporative air-conditioning unit with ducts to the main play rooms on either end of the building. The unit is old but generally functional; however, on days of extreme heat, the unit may fail to provide adequate relief.

On very warm/ hot days

Parents will:

- Dress children in clothing that minimises heat gain and cover shoulders.
- Pack heat sensitive food with a freezer brick (or similar).
- Apply sunscreen to their children prior to arrival at Kindy. Supply the kindergarten with sunscreen if their child is sensitive to generic type of sunblock. Complete a "permission to apply sunscreen" consent, as part of the enrolment process.
- Consider the level of heat related risk posed to their child during transportation to Kindy.

The educators will:

- Undertake a risk assessment of outdoor experiences, during hot days, including checking surface temperature of rubber soft fall and artificial grass. Adjust the routine and time spent outdoors as necessary. Limit or cancel "high energy" activities. Offer water play experiences.
- Refer to the Bureau of Meteorology for information related to UV ratings and temperature forecast. Ensure all children and educators wear a hat if UV rating is 3 or above. (The kindergarten will keep some spare hats, that will be washed after use).
- Activate appropriate cooling systems to provide relief from the weather.
- Ensure water is provided to children at all times and children are encouraged to drink frequently.
- Support children in re-applying sunscreen throughout the Kindy day.
- Contact parents and follow first aid procedures, if children appear to suffer from weather related issues eg heat stroke.

The director will:

- Take on the responsibility of making parents aware of the policy, by distributing it to new and existing families via the newsletter, parent information noticeboard or the website.
- Ensure the policy is understood by all educators and is contained within the induction information for new staff.
- Ensure the policy is reviewed biannually (or as required).

References

- Cancer Council SA: Early Childhood Resource
- DfE Heat Stress Procedure
- DfE WHS: UV radiation/Sun protection procedure

Glossary of terms

- DfE: Department for Education