

# Mitcham Village Kindergarten

## HOT WEATHER POLICY

### RATIONALE

On days of extreme heat (37° or above), it is an expectation that all staff, students and parents take steps to ensure their health and safety by conserving their energy and ensuring their fluid levels are maintained.

### STRATEGIES

The following heat protection strategies to be applied on days of extreme heat (37° or above):

#### CHILDREN

- Children will be encouraged to wear a broad brimmed, legionnaire style or bucket hat during outside play.
- Children to wear light clothing that enables them to stay cool whilst also providing adequate sun protection.
- Children to bring water bottles from home and encouraged to drink fluids throughout the day.

#### STAFF

- Staff to act as role models by:
  - wearing protective hats
  - wearing appropriate protective clothing
  - regularly drinking water
  - seeking shade during outdoor play
- Children to be offered and encouraged to participate in sedentary and quieter activities.
- Children to be reminded to drink water throughout the day regardless of indoor or outdoor play settings.
- A constant supply of cool drinking water will be available.
- Outdoor activities to be set-up in the shaded areas to avoid children being in direct sun. In extreme conditions, children may be required to remain indoors.
- Program changes may occur to access outdoor play before the temperature rises.
- Information relating to the importance of staying cool and maintaining hydration levels to be included within the curriculum.

## **PARENTS**

- Parents will be made aware of the Hot Weather Policy upon enrolment of their child.
- Parents will be encouraged to provide suitable light-weight sun protective clothing for their child to wear whilst at the centre.
- Parents will be asked to provide their child with a drink bottle when attending the centre.

## **CENTRE MANAGEMENT**

- Make shade provision a priority within forward planning.
- Encourage staff and parents to role model appropriate heat protective behaviours.
- To ensure that all staff, students and parents consider their health during days of extreme heat by conserving their energy and maintaining their fluid levels.

## **CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

This policy has been developed by the staff team in consultation with the Governing Council.

This policy will be reviewed and evaluated regularly by both staff and the Governing Council and modified as required to ensure continued relevance for the centre.

This policy was endorsed by the Governing Council on:

Date: .....

Chairperson: .....

Director: .....

Policy review date.....

Policy review date.....

Policy review date.....

Policy review date.....