



Hot Weather Policy

Rationale

The purpose of this policy is to outline site strategies aimed at reducing the risk of heat illness to young children during hot weather.

The Children's Centre recognises that all employees (including leaders) must take reasonable care to protect their own health and safety and that of others in the workplace and that:

- all site leaders have a duty of care to behave in a manner that ensures no foreseeable harm befalls the individual(s) under their care as a result of any negligence on their part
- The requirements of the National Quality Standards are met;

2.3.2 Reasonable steps are taken to identify and manage risks, and every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and hazards

- *The service will provide a comfortable and safe environment for children*
- *Heating and cooling equipment provided to maintain a comfortable temperature for children*

The policy will recognise that children are at greater risk of suffering from heat illness than adults. A child's ability to respond to environmental heat and acclimatise to heat is due to physiological differences.

"Children sweat less and get less evaporative cooling than adults. In warm and hot weather they have greater difficulty getting rid of heat; they look flushed, and feel hotter and more stressed than adults"

Source "Sports Medicine Australia",

Strategies

These strategies are in addition to the sun protection - skin protection policy

In the event of hot weather educators will:

- Facilitate routines and programs in shaded areas
 - Endeavour to maintain an indoor temperature that provides for the comfort of each child
 - Ensure all children are frequently offered and have access to water at all times
 - Encourage parents to dress children in clothing that minimises heat gain, in layers that can be easily removed during activity and of a type that is sunsafe
- Refer www.arpansa.gov.au/radiationprotection/factsheets/is_UVProtection.cfm

- Encourage parents to transport children's food in insulated containers with a freezer brick or frozen water
- Ensure that there is sufficient storage in the centre fridge for parents to store children's food that requires refrigeration
- Recognise that parents delivering and collecting children must also be provided with an environment which minimises the risk of heat related illness to them, their child and their family
- In extenuating circumstances, such as no air conditioning in extreme heat, early dismissal will occur. (see Early Dismissal Clause)

Early Dismissal Clause

Contingency plan for events such as blackouts and breakdown of air conditioner

If the Children's Centre has extenuating circumstances (such as no air-conditioning) on extreme hot weather days (i.e. days where the forecast is at least 36 degrees) and the conditions in the centre are deemed unsuitable for children, the Centre will ensure:

- Families will be notified individually of the extenuating circumstance so they can collect their child/children if able to.
- Staff will remain on duty and ensure that children who are unable to be collected are adequately supervised by staff and kept as comfortable as possible.

References

Sun Smart - Cancer Council of SA

www.cancersa.org.au/asp/sunsmart.aspx

DECD Hot Weather Policy -

Preschools www.decd.sa.gov.au/docs/documents/1/HotWeatherGuidelinesPresc.pdf

QUALITY AREA 2

STANDARD 2.3 ELEMENT 2.3.2

Policy 2013

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