

Hot Weather & Sun Protection Policy

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Government of South Australia

Department for Education and
Child Development

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Preschool

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Purpose

The policy recognises 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.

The policy recognises that sun protection is important to minimise the impact from heat and sun exposure of young children.

Our centre

- provides play spaces conducive to safe play in hot weather.
- promotes positive attitudes towards skin protection including healthy exposure to Vitamin D.
- develops lifestyle practices and an awareness of the need to reduce the level of exposure to the sun.

We support this through our educational program and through modelling good practice.

Protective Hats

Children and staff are required to wear a suitable hat that effectively covers face, neck and ears – a **wide brimmed hat** is required **not caps during term 1, term 2 until week 4, from term 3 week 4 and term 4**. (Term 2 after week 4 until Term 3 week 4 warm hats may be worn when the weather turns cold and broad brim hats can be accessed if needed)

Parents/Caregivers are also encouraged to wear appropriate hats when involved in Pre-school activities.

We have a “no hat, no outside play” saying that is implemented during term 1 and 4.

Protective Clothing

Children and Staff are required to wear clothing that covers majority of their bodies eg no singlet straps or midriff tops permitted. We require all tops worn to have sleeves in them. The Cancer Council of SA currently recommends shirts/dresses be worn with sleeves and collars and longer style shorts/skirts etc.

Indoor Activities

We use air conditioned areas for indoor play.

Outside Activities

We use shaded areas as much as possible for outdoor play.

During peak UV times, outside play times are minimised, and children are encouraged to complete activities under shaded areas or inside.

Sunscreen

From the beginning of Term 3 through to end of Term 1, the centre will implement the supervision of children attending our program reapplying sunscreen 20 minutes prior to going outdoors for their afternoon preschool session. Children will be assisted in independently applying their own sunscreen.

We ask that parents/caregivers apply sunscreen to your child prior to their session, as **we do not encourage it to be in children's bags**.

It is not the responsibility of the centre to apply sunscreen to children attending half-day sessions. Sunscreen is available at Kindy for use.

The centre will provide SPF 50 plus sunscreen with UV-A and UV-B protection by the Cancer Council.

If you do not wish your child to be offered sunscreen, it is your responsibility to notify the Centre.

Children who require their own sunscreen will need to be provided with their own individual sunscreen in its original container labelled clearly with their name. This sunscreen will then be stored safely and given out to children when required.

Families are reminded of this policy at the end of Term 3 and again in Term 1 to reinforce our SunSmart message.

For further information please go to the DECD site:

<http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/childrensservices/pages/earlychildhoodreform/sunprotection/>