



# Murray Bridge Preschool Kindergarten

## Clothing Policy

This policy provides families with information about suitable clothing for their child to wear while at the Centre. It is consistent with recommendations from recognised authorities such as SunSmart and Kidsafe. The Policy also takes into account the range of activities children are involved in at the Centre, the weather, and the need to encourage children's independence and self-help skills.

Family preferences and values, cultural or otherwise, with regard to clothing are respected and accommodated without compromising children's safety while at the Centre.

### Strategies and practices

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- This *Clothing Policy* is explained to parents when they enrol their child in the Centre, and their attention is specifically drawn to their responsibilities under this Policy. The *Clothing Policy* is also referred to in the Family Handbook given to all parents.
- We will inform families about suitable clothing for their children while at the Centre for safe indoor and outdoor play, sun safety, safe active play and independence.
- Educators will include in the program planned and spontaneous discussions and experiences about appropriate clothing for weather, seasons, and different types of activities.
- Educators will ensure children are dressed appropriately throughout the day. This includes some adjustments may need to be made during the day through changes in weather and in the activities children are involved in (e.g. active play, messy play, sleep and rest). Children will be provided with a Sun Safe hat by the Centre which will be kept at the Kindergarten.
- Educators, students and volunteers are considered to be role models for children and are expected to meet the Centre's dress requirements when at the Centre.
- Parents are asked to label every item of their child's clothing (including spares) brought to the Centre.

When dressing their child for a day at the Centre, parents are also asked to consider:

### Sun protection

- Children need to be dressed appropriately for safe sun smart play, including sleeves ( no strappy shirts), sun safe hats ( provided by the centre) and sunscreen ( applied at home in the morning and at the Centre at lunch time).

Refer to the Centre's *Sun Protection Policy*.

### **Active play**

- Children need to wear clothes that are non-restrictive, durable and can be easily washed so that they can participate freely in all of the activities available at the Centre. Such items as: long skirts; hooded jumpers with cords; hats with cords and toggles; and, rubber thongs and other loose footwear are not suitable because they pose safety risks when children are climbing, running and riding bikes.

### **Weather conditions**

- Parents are asked to dress their children according to weather conditions and temperatures and to provide a supply of clothing in their child's bag for possible changes in the weather through the day.

### **Art and craft activities / messy activities**

- Parents are asked to dress their child in clothing that allows participation in messy activities, and can be easily laundered. Good or 'special' clothes are not suitable because children can become distressed if these become marked.
- Children participating in art and craft, clay or water play, cooking or any other form of messy play will be encouraged to wear one of the centre's protective smocks or aprons, however clothes can still become messy .

### **Independence and self-help skills**

- Educators encourage children's self-help skills (e.g. taking off and putting on shoes and socks, removing clothing, pulling up clothing after toileting). Routines and 'dressing times' are unhurried and considered to be opportunities for interaction and conversation with children and developing self-help skills.
- In order to facilitate children's self help and independence, parents are asked to dress children in:
  - clothes they can undo easily and remove quickly for toileting. Clothes with elastic waists are preferred to overalls and to trousers with zips and buttons.
  - shoes that are easiest to put on, such as those with velcro clips.

### **Protective behaviours and practices**

- Children are encouraged to dress/undress themselves. Assistance is provided when necessary.
- Children who are capable of dressing/undressing are given the option of privacy.

### **Footwear**

- Children need to wear non-slip shoes or sandals that are flexible and provide a good grip. Thongs, clogs and gumboots are not suitable for running and climbing.

- Children may remove their shoes for outside play, weather permitting.
- Gumboots may be sent for outdoor wet weather play.

### **Spare clothing**

- Parents are asked to provide spare clothing for their child. Children require at least one change of clothes. Some children require several changes of clothes because accidents are more frequent. Children who are toilet training also need a sufficient number of under pants or training pants.
- The Centre has a small supply of spare clothing, consistent with its *Clothing Policy*, to be used when needed. If a child needs to use these clothes, parents are asked to wash and return them as soon as possible.

### **Soiled clothing**

- Soiled clothing is placed in a plastic bag which is stored in a container out of the reach of children. Parents are asked to collect any soiled clothing at the end of each day.

### **Responsibilities of parents**

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- To dress their child in accordance with this Policy.
- To provide spare clothing for their child.
- To label every item of their child's clothing (including spares) brought to the Centre.
- To wash and return any clothing items borrowed from the centre.
- To check the lost property regularly for items that belong to them.