

# OCEAN VIEW COLLEGE CHILDREN'S CENTRE

## SUNSMART POLICY

### AIM

The SunSmart policy has been developed to:

- encourage children and staff to use sun protection measures during terms 1, 3 and 4 and whenever UV Index levels reach 3 and above
- work towards a safe outdoor environment that provides shade for children and staff at appropriate times
- ensure all children and staff have some UV radiation exposure for vitamin D
- assist children to be responsible for their own sun protection
- ensure families and new staff are informed of the centre's SunSmart policy.

### Rationale

A balance of ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure is important for health. Too much of the sun's UV radiation can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Sun exposure in the first ten years of life is a major factor in determining future skin cancer risk.

Too little UV radiation from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. Vitamin D is essential for healthy bones and muscles and for general health.

### Legislation

This policy relates to the following National Law and Regulations:

- *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010:*
  - Section 167 – Protection from harm and hazards
- *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011:*
  - Regulation 100 – Risk assessment must be conducted before an excursion
  - Regulation 113 – Outdoor space – natural environment
  - Regulation 114 – Outdoor space – shade
  - Regulation 168: Policies and procedures (2)(a)(ii) – sun protection

### National Quality Standard

All of the following SunSmart procedures link to: Quality area 2: Children's health and safety.

There are also links to:

Quality area 1: Educational program and practice

Quality area 3: Physical environment

Quality area 5: Relationships with children

Quality area 6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities

Quality area 7: Leadership and service management

## **Procedures**

Staff are encouraged to access the daily sun protection times to assist with the implementation of this policy.

Hats will be worn for all outdoor activities during terms 1, 3 and 4 (August until the end of April). Sunscreen and other sun protection measures such as protective clothing, setting up activities in the shade etc will be implemented whenever the UV radiation levels reach 3.

Babies under twelve months will not be exposed to the direct sun when UV radiation levels are 3 and above

### **1. Clothing**

#### **Quality area 2: Children's health and safety**

When outside, children are required to wear loose fitting clothing that cover as much skin as possible.

Clothing made from cool, closely woven fabric is recommended. Tops with elbow length sleeves, collars and knee length or longer style shorts and skirts are best.

If a child is wearing a singlet top or dress parents should provide a t-shirt/shirt to go over the top before going outdoors. If parents do not provide a t-shirt/shirt one will be provided by the centre.

### **2. Sunscreen**

#### **Quality area 2: Children's health and safety**

- SPF 30 or higher, broad spectrum and water resistant sunscreen is available for staff and children's use
- If children have sensitivity to the centre provided sunscreen families are required to provide their own sunscreen, which will be used exclusively for their child/ren
- sunscreen is applied at least twenty minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours if outdoors
- It is the responsibility of parents of preschool children to apply sunscreen before the child arrives at preschool. Sunscreen will be available for parents to use if required.
- With parental consent, children with naturally very dark skin are not required to wear sunscreen to help with vitamin D requirements
- Children, once old enough, are encouraged to apply their own sunscreen under the supervision of staff.

### **3. Hats**

#### **Quality area 2: Children's health and safety**

All children are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears, i.e. legionnaire, broad brimmed or bucket hats. Baseball or peak caps are not considered a suitable alternative. Educators will be provided a centre logo bucket style hat free of charge.

- child care children will be provided a centre logo bucket style hat free of charge
- preschool families are required to provide their own hat or one can be purchased from the centre.

## **4. Shade**

### **Quality area 2: Children's health and safety**

### **Quality area 3: Physical environment**

- a shade audit is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade
- management makes sure there is a sufficient number of shelters and trees providing shade in the outdoor area
- the availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all other outdoor activities
- Outdoor activities are scheduled outside the peak UV radiation times or in the shade where possible.
- children are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside
- children who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing are asked to play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.

## **5. Sunglasses [optional]**

### **Quality area 2: Children's health and safety**

Children and staff are encouraged to wear close fitting, wraparound sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard AS/NZS 1067:2003 (Sunglasses: lens category 2, 3 or 4) and cover as much of the eye area as possible.

## **6. Babies**

### **Quality area 2: Children's health and safety**

Our SunSmart practices consider the special needs of infants. All babies under twelve months are not exposed to the direct sun when UV radiation levels are 3 and above.

Infants will be protected by using shade, clothing and hats. Sunscreen will be applied to small areas of exposed skin not protected by clothing or hats.

## **7. Enrolment and information for families**

### **Quality area 6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities**

When enrolling their child, families are:

- informed of the centre's SunSmart policy
- asked to provide a suitable hat for their child (preschool children only)
- asked to provide their child with suitable outdoor clothing that is cool and covers as much skin as possible (i.e. shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts)
- provide their own sunscreen if children have a sensitivity to the centre supplied sunscreen
- required to give permission for staff to apply sunscreen to their child
- families and visitors are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures (sun protective clothing and hats, shade, sunglasses and sunscreen) when attending the centre.

## **8. Staff WHS and role modelling**

### **Quality area 5: Relationships with children**

As part of WHS UV risk controls and role modelling, when the UV radiation is 3 and above, staff:

- wear sun protective hats, clothing and sunglasses (optional) when outside
- apply SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen
- seek shade whenever possible.

## **9. Education**

### **Quality area 1: Educational program and practice    Quality area 5: Relationships with children**

### **Quality area 6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities**

- sun protection and vitamin D are incorporated into the learning and development program
- the SunSmart policy is reinforced through staff and children's activities and displays
- staff and families are provided with information on sun protection and vitamin D through family newsletters, noticeboards and the centre's website.

## **10. Policy review**

### **Quality area 7: Leadership and service management**

Management and staff monitor and review the effectiveness of the SunSmart policy and revise the policy when required (at least once every two years).

**Approved by Governing Council:** 8 August 2018

**Date of next policy review:** July 2019