

# Inclement Weather and Sun Protection Policy

[Link to National Quality Standards](#)

2.3 Each child is protected.

2.3.2 Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury.

## Rationale

One Tree Hill Preschool is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy work environment for its staff, children and visitors.

This policy aims to ensure that all children and Educators attending the Site are protected (as much as practicable) from skin damage and heat stress caused by the sun and its radiation. As part of this policy, staff, visitors and children will practice a combination of sun protection measures from 1

September-30 April and any other time the UV rating is 3 and above. When UV levels reach 3, there is a risk of damage to unprotected skin.

When UV radiation levels are below 3, sun protection will not be encouraged, allowing Educators and children the opportunity for safe UV exposure to assist with vitamin D production.

This policy has been developed using “Sun Smart Advice for Early Childhood Centres” booklet and Department for Education and Child Development policies.

## Policy:

- Children must wear a sunsafe hat outside in accordance with the One Tree Hill Primary School policy.
- Between September and May and on days where UV rating is above 3 the preschool will take extra care between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm to minimise exposure to UV radiation.
- Children must wear clothing that completely covers their shoulders ie no tank tops or shoestring straps.

- It is the responsibility of families to apply sunscreen to their child before they arrive at preschool on high risk days.
- Staff will assist children to reapply sunscreen as appropriate, usually around lunch time on high risk days.
- All families are asked for permission to apply sunscreen.
- If families wish to provide a preferred sunscreen for their child, written and signed permission for educators to assist children to apply sunscreen must be received from the parent/caregiver including the brand name and spf factor of the cream before staff will assist children in applying sunscreen.
- Sunscreen provided by the parent/caregiver must be clearly labelled with the child's name.
- Out of date sunscreen will not be applied.

#### **Educator Responsibilities:**

Each employee is legally responsible for their own health and safety and must avoid adversely affecting the health and safety of any other person.

Educators will be positive role models who practice skin protection behaviour. This means that educators will:

- Where practical, set up planned outdoor activities in shaded areas or inside. Peak UV times and shade availability will be considered when planning outdoor activities/excursions.
- Educators will supply and assist children to apply SPF 30 or higher, broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen as required.
- Children who do not have their hats with them when the UV level is over 3 will play in a covered area protected from the sun.
- Educators will incorporate sun and skin awareness activities into teaching programs.
- Educators will promote sun smart behaviour and model appropriate practice.
- Provide drinking water as necessary and encourage all children to keep up fluid levels, educators will ensure they maintain their own fluid intake.
- Educators will be given the opportunity to have a break from outside duties on hot days to relieve heat stress. The onus is on the Educator to request a break.

- To assist in preventing heat stress, children will have access to shaded and indoor play areas when temperatures reach over 35 degrees.

**Wet Weather:**

Wet Weather will generally not prevent outside play. The Preschool has a supply of wet weather gear for children to use. Families are asked to bring along a pair of rubber boots for water play.