



HOT WEATHER POLICY

This 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.

"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"

Crucial to this policy is:

- All employees, including leaders, must take reasonable care to protect their own health and safety and that of others in the preschool.
- All employees ensure strategies are in place to reduce the risk of heat illness or burn injuries.

At Renmark West Preschool we aim to keep everyone safe at all times and, in particular, during periods of hot weather. Reasonable steps will be taken to identify and manage risks, and every reasonable precaution will be taken to protect children from harm and hazards.

The preschool will:

- Provide a comfortable and safe environment for all children.
- Provide heating and cooling to maintain a comfortable temperature for all children.
- Seek sun protection advice from the Cancer Council of South Australia.
- Recognise the risk of heat stress is a factor of both air temperature and relative humidity levels.
- During hot weather, check all surfaces in the preschool ensuring children are not at risk of contact burn injuries.

Strategies to reduce the risk of heat illness will include:

- Shade: During periods of hot weather activities will be conducted in shaded areas.
- Drinks: Children will be required to bring a drink bottle containing water and children will be reminded to drink regularly. Staff will top up children's water bottles with rainwater as necessary.
- Clothing: Parents are encouraged to dress children in clothing that minimises heat gain, in layers that can be easily removed during activity and in clothing that fits with our Sun Protection Policy.
- Lunch: Parents are encouraged to pack food in the standard lunch box provided. The preschool then places all lunch boxes in a refrigerator where the temperature is monitored to ensure food is stored according 2 hour/4 hour rule.
(See Food Storage Procedures)

The following measures will apply on days when the UV radiation levels are high and when



educators feel conditions warrant it:

- Modified outdoor activities will be offered to children in the morning. These will be located in shaded areas.
- There will be no outdoor activities offered in the afternoon and children will remain indoors.

As our preschool has effective cooling we do not have an Early Dismissal Clause.

For additional information please refer also to our Sun Protection Policy and the DECD Inclement Weather Procedures.

This policy has been developed in consultation with the Governing Council, staff and families of the centre and will be reviewed and evaluated regularly and modified as required to ensure continued relevance for Renmark West Preschool. This policy will be shared with all new staff and families and available be available in the preschool policies folder.

Policy Issued: October 2012
Policy Reviewed: May 2015
Policy Reviewed: March 2017
Next review date: March 2019

References

- Sports Medicine Australia
www.sma.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/beat-the-heat-2008-email-version.pdf
- National Quality Standards - Standard 2.3.2 Children's Health and Safety
- Cancer Council of SA, refer to: www.cancersa.org.au/aspx/sunsmart.aspx