



SUN PROTECTION POLICY

Rationale

At Renmark West Preschool we believe that all children and staff have a right to a safe and secure environment. Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world and one out of every two people develops some form of skin cancer in their lifetime. Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Much of the damage occurs during childhood and adolescence. Research suggests that severe sunburn is a contributor to skin cancer and other forms of skin damage such as wrinkles, sunspots, blemishes and premature ageing. Most skin damage is therefore, preventable.

Aims

- To promote positive attitudes toward skin protection.
- To ensure that all children attending our preschool are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun.
- To raise awareness of the potential damage that exposure to the sun can cause, in particular between 10 am to 3.00 pm.
- To encourage personal responsibility for skin protection.

Skin Protection Strategies

- The wearing of a hat outdoors will be compulsory. All children are required to have a hat in their bag every day – NO HAT, NO PLAY. Hats are also required to be worn by children attending playgroup sessions when outdoors.
- Parents will be encouraged to provide hats that satisfy the Cancer Council of SA guidelines so as to shade the face, back of the neck and ears. Examples are broad brimmed, legionnaire or bucket style hat with a minimum of 5cm brim (a recommendation by the Cancer Council SA).
- If children do not have the appropriate hat, they are required to play indoors or on the verandah. In the event that children must go outdoors as part of the curriculum a loan hat will be provided to them. This hat is placed in the preschool washing bag for laundering after use.
- A supply of SPF 30+ broad spectrum water-resistant sunscreen will be kept at the preschool for use when required and be readily available for parents and caregivers to use with their children.

Staff

- Staff will act as role models by wearing protective hats and appropriate clothing. This behaviour will be modelled both at the preschool and on excursions.
- Staff will set up outdoor activities in appropriately shaded areas, avoiding children being in direct sun between 10 am to 3 pm. Staff will seek shade whenever possible during outdoor activities.
- Staff will include information about the importance of skin protection in the educational program for the children. This includes regularly involving children in checking the daily UV index via the SunSmart app.
- Staff will ensure and support all children to effectively apply SPF 30+ broad spectrum water-resistant sunscreen provided by the preschool before playing outdoors in the afternoon if the UV index is level 3 or above.
- Staff will inform the parent community of aspects of skin protection.



Parents and Caregivers

- Provide a hat that provides good protection to the face, ears and neck such as a broad brimmed, bucket hat with at least a 5cm brim or legionnaire style of hat for their child, every day.
- Clothe their child in protective clothing – shirts and tops with collars and sleeves are best. Singlets, tank tops, shoe-string tops or tops with exposed midriff are not acceptable.
- Apply a broad spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen with an SPF of 30+ to clean, dry skin, 15- 20 minutes before coming to preschool (in the event that this is forgotten, parents may use sunscreen provided at the preschool located on top of the lockers next to the sign-in sheet).
- Be a good role model and wear a hat, sunscreen and protective clothing themselves.
- Inform staff if children are allergic to sunscreen cream.

Site Leaders

- Make shade provision a priority in the preschool's forward planning i.e. plant shade trees and
- cover play areas and sandpit with suitable structures.
- Encourage staff and parents to role model good "Sun Smart" behaviour.

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 be available in the preschool policies folder.

Policy Issued:	October 2012
Policy Reviewed:	June 2015
Policy Reviewed:	March 2017
Next Review:	March 2019