

## Sun Protection Policy

### NQS

QA2	2.3.2	Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury.
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QA3	3.1.1	Outdoor and indoor spaces, buildings, furniture, equipment, facilities and resources are suitable for their purpose
	3.1.2	Premises, furniture and equipment are safe, clean and well maintained
	3.1.3	Facilities are designed or adapted to ensure access and participation by every child in the service and to allow flexible use, and interaction between indoor and outdoor space.
	3.2.1	Outdoor and indoor spaces are designed and organised to engage every child in quality experiences in both built and natural environments.
	3.2.2	Resources, materials and equipment are sufficient in number, organised in ways that ensure appropriate and effective implementation of the program and allow for multiple uses

QA6	6.1.1	There is an effective enrolment and orientation process for families
	6.1.2	Families have opportunities to be involved in the service and contribute to service decisions
	6.1.3	Current information about the service is available to families
	6.2.1	The expertise of families is recognised and they share in decision making about their child's learning and wellbeing.
	6.2.2	Current information is available to families about community services and resources to support parenting and family wellbeing.
	6.3.1	Links with relevant community and support agencies are established and maintained.
	6.3.2	Continuity of learning and transitions for each child are supported by sharing relevant information and clarifying responsibilities.

### National Regulations

	103	Premises, furniture and equipment to be safe, clean and in good repair
	113	Outdoor space—natural environment
	114	Outdoor space—shade
	168(2)(k)	Policies and procedures are required in relation to enrolment and orientation
	171	Policies and procedures to be kept available

# Early Years Learning Framework

LO2	Children develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities and an understanding of the reciprocal rights and responsibilities necessary for active community participation
	Children respond to diversity with respect
	Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment

LO4	Children develop dispositions for learning such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity
	Children develop a range of skills and processes such as problem solving, enquiry, experimentation, hypothesising, researching and investigating
	Children transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another
	Children resource their own learning through connecting with people, place, technologies and natural and processed materials

## Aim

To provide a physical environment that is safe.

## Who is affected by this policy?

Children  
Families  
Educators  
Management

## Implementation

Australia has one of the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world with two out of every three people developing some form of skin cancer before they are 70.

Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Sun exposure in the first ten years of life determines, to a substantial degree, the likelihood of skin cancer developing later in life.

Cancer Council SA advises people protect their skin at times when the ultraviolet (UV) radiation level is 3 and above—this is when it is strong enough to cause damage to unprotected skin. For much of South Australia, UV radiation levels are 3 and above everyday from August to April—it is during these months that sun protection is necessary. Cancer Council SA also recommends that particular care should be taken during these months.

Cancer Council SA recommends that a skin protection policy be in place from 1 August until 30 April when UV radiation levels are 3 and above. It is highly recommended that UV radiation levels are monitored, particularly during May to July as they still may be 3 or above depending on your location.

It is important to balance sun protection with safe sun exposure for the production of vitamin D for bone growth and development. During May to July, at times when the UV radiation level is below 3, sun protection for most people is not necessary and therefore, no hats or sunscreen are required.

Our services aims to promote among children, staff and parents:

- Positive attitudes towards skin protection.
- Lifestyle practices which can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and the number of related deaths.
- Personal responsibility for and decision making about skin protection.
- Awareness of the need for environmental changes in our centre to reduce the level of sun exposure when the UV radiation level is 3 and above.

This policy is for implementation from 1 August to 30 April and when the UV is 3 and above. Outside of this time care should also be taken when the ultraviolet radiation level is 3 (moderate) and above. The purpose of the policy is to ensure that all members of our Early Childhood Service are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful rays of the sun.

Staff are encouraged to check UV alert via <http://www.bom.gov.au/places/sa/riverton/forecast/> to assist with the implementation of the policy. The sun protection times indicate when the UV levels will be 3 and above and the UV Index predicts the maximum UV level which peaks across the middle of the day.

Babies under 12 months need special consideration—see strategy 5.

It is an expectation that all staff, students and parents of the service will use the following skin protection strategies:

### **1. Take care to protect the skin when the ultraviolet radiation level is 3 (moderate) and above.**

Extra care should be taken over the middle of the day when UV radiation levels are highest.

1.1 The children's lunch, rest time and indoor activities will be held over the middle of the day to minimise exposure to UV radiation when the UV is at its peak..

1.2 Whenever possible, all outdoor activities will be scheduled outside the peak UV radiation times and always in the shaded areas of the service.

### **2. Use the shade of trees, pergolas, umbrellas and tents whenever outdoors.**

2.1 Tree planting will be organised at the service with priority given any open space grassed area.

2.2 The sandpit and play equipment area to be a priority for shade structure planning

2.3 The further provision of shade areas is a priority for the service.

2.4 Children will be encouraged to seek shade and activities will be set up in available shaded areas.

### **3. Wear appropriate clothing which protects the skin.**

3.1 Children, staff and parents will be expected to wear a broad brimmed hat, legionnaire style hat, or a bucket hat (bucket hat must have a deep crown and minimum 5 cm brim for children under 5 years of age and 6cms for older children and adults) whenever they are involved in outside activities. Children not wearing an appropriate hat will be expected to play in the shade.

3.2 Children will be encouraged to wear shirts with collars and at least elbow length sleeves and longer style shorts/skirts.

**4. Apply a broad-spectrum, water resistant sunscreen with an SPF of 30+ to clean, dry skin, 15—20 minutes before going outdoors for lunch or activities. Sunscreen should be reapplied every two hours if outdoors for a prolonged period of time or more frequently if involved in water activities or perspiring.**

4.1 Adequate time must be allowed for correct application of sunscreen on children before they go outdoors.

4.2 Parents will be encouraged to supply sunscreen for their children although there will be bulk sunscreen packs available at the service.

4.3 Sunscreen will be applied before the children's morning outdoor activities and again before they go outside in the afternoon at times when the UV is 3 and above.

#### **5. The special needs of babies:**

5.1 Babies (under the age of 12 months) should be kept out of the direct sunlight as much as possible and always protected by shade, clothing and hats.

5.2 Sunscreen should be applied to small areas of exposed skin not protected by clothing and hats, where necessary.

#### **6. Reinforcing the SunSmart message in all service activities and in general service procedures is an important strategy in the adoption of skin protection behaviours.**

6.1 Staff will be encouraged to role model SunSmart strategies in all service activities.

6.2 Skin cancer prevention, sun protection and vitamin D information will be included in age-appropriate teaching activities.

6.3 Staff will be encouraged to keep up to date with new information and resources from Cancer Council SA.

6.4 Information about the centre's Sun Protection Policy will be given to all new staff, students and families and SunSmart behaviour will be regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole community (e.g. newsletters).

#### **7 The Services sun protection strategy will be evaluated on a three yearly basis or earlier if required, to ensure the policy remains current and relevant.**

7.1 Policy issues will be discussed at staff and parent meetings.

**Reviewed:** 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016 in consultation with the SunSmart Team

**Date for next review:** September 2019

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

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Director

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Governing Council Chairperson