



Valley View Kindergarten Sun Smart Policy

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Valley View Kindergarten is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy working and learning environment for staff, children and visitors to the kindergarten. To achieve this the kindergarten has developed these guidelines regarding sunsmart practices.

This policy applies to all centre events on and off-site.

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 during childhood and adolescence 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. Sensible sun protection when UV is 3 and above does not put people at risk of vitamin D deficiency.

Cancer Council SA advises people to 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.

Objectives

This Sun Protection policy has been developed to:

- encourage children and staff to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV Index levels reach 3 and above
- promote positive attitudes towards skin protection.
- work towards a safe outdoor environment that provides shade for children and staff at appropriate times
- assist children to be responsible for their own sun protection
- ensure families and new staff are informed of the centre's Sun Protection policy.

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 excursion
 - Regulation 113 – Outdoor space—natural environment
 - Regulation 114 – Outdoor space—shade
 - Regulation 168: Policies and procedures (2)(a)(ii)—sun protection
 - Regulation 170 – Policies and procedures to be followed
 - Regulation 171 – Policies and procedures to be kept available
 - Regulation 172 – Notification of change to policies or procedures.
- **Work Health and Safety Act 2012**

National Quality Standards

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: Governance and leadership.**

Procedures

Staff are encouraged to access the daily sun protection times on the SunSmart app, or at bom.gov.au/uv/index.shtml to assist with implementing this policy.

We use a combination of sun protection measures for all outdoor activities between 1 August until 30 April and whenever UV radiation levels reach 3 and above at other times.

Extra care is taken during the peak UV radiation times and outdoor activities are scheduled outside of these times where possible. A combination of sun protection measures are considered when planning outdoor activities such as excursions and water based activities.

During May to August, at times when the UV radiation level is below 3, sun protection for most people is not necessary.

Implementation

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that all members of our Kindergarten are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful rays of the sun.

Volunteers and visitors attending the site will be expected to wear sun protection and be responsible for supplying their own sun protection equipment.

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

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 collars and elbow length sleeves, and knee length or longer style shorts and skirts are best.

2. Sunscreen

Quality area 2: Children's health and safety

SPF 50 or higher, broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen is available for staff and children's use.

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

Sunscreen is applied at least twenty minutes before going outdoors.

Parents will apply sunscreen to their children (although there will be bulk sunscreen packs available at the service) before Kindergarten.

Parents will inform staff of any allergies children might have to sunscreen.

Families with children who have naturally very dark skin are encouraged to discuss their vitamin D requirements with their GP or paediatrician.

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.

Children not wearing an appropriate hat will be asked to play under the veranda or inside.

Children will have a hat in their bag every day. These will be worn daily between 1 August until 30 April and whenever UV radiation levels reach 3 and above at other times.

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 ensures 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.

Children are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.

Whenever possible, all outdoor activities will be scheduled before 10.00 am or in the shaded areas. Staff will monitor the placement of equipment/activities to ensure the health and safety of all children and staff. (eg placing climbing equipment in the shade/moving equipment to follow the shade/restricting climbing activities to the AM session only as the boards and trestles get very hot, and retain heat on their surface)

5. 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 Sun Protection policy
- asked to provide a suitable hat for their child
- asked to provide their child with suitable outdoor clothing that is cool and covers as much skin as possible (i.e. covering the shoulders, chest, upper arms and legs)
- asked to provide SPF 50 or higher, broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for their child
- 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 participating in or attending outdoor activities with the centre.

6. 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 when outside
- apply SPF 50 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen
- seek shade whenever possible.

7. 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 is incorporated into the learning and development program. Reinforcing the Sun Smart message in activities and general procedures is an important strategy in the adoption of skin protection behaviours.
- The Sun Protection policy is reinforced through staff and children's activities and displays.
- Staff will be encouraged to keep up to date with new information and resources from Cancer Council SA.
- Information about the centre's Sun Smart Policy will be given to all new staff, students and families.
- Staff and families are provided with information on sun protection through family newsletters, noticeboards and the centre's website.

8. Policy review

Quality area 7: Governance and leadership

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

The Governing Council endorsed this policy on 21/10/2020

Date of next policy review : 1/10/2022