



# West Lakes Shore Kindergarten hot and wet weather policies

## Hot weather policy

### Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to outline the relevant details and to include specific strategies that are aimed at reducing the risk of heat illness to young children at our kindergarten. This Policy has been developed in consultation with staff from the WLS Kindergarten and members of the Governing Council, and is in line with ACECQA regulations (NQS) and DECD Policy.

### Objectives

The objective of this Policy is to ensure that:

- all employees (including leaders) must take reasonable care to protect their own health and the safety of others in the workplace <sup>1</sup>
- all site leaders have a duty of care towards *children as the paramount consideration*
- the objects of the *Children's Services Act 1985* are upheld
- the requirements of the National Quality Standards are met

This policy will recognise that children are at greater risk of suffering from heat illness than adults and a child's ability to respond to environmental heat and acclimatise to heat is due to physiological differences.

The WLS kindergarten's Policy takes into account the need to consider the inclusion of strategies to reduce the risk of heat illness in young children, such as:

- **Shade and Outside Play:** When the forecast for **West Lakes Shore** is **36 degrees** or higher, and at staff discretion. Children have the choice as to whether they would like to play inside or outside during these times. When playing outside, all children will be encouraged to play in shaded areas and activities involving physical exertion will be kept to a minimum.
- **Drinks of water** are to be frequently offered and drinking water is to be accessible to children at all times.
- **Lunch - Parents** are asked to pack food in insulated containers with a freezer brick or frozen water. WLS kindergarten provides a cool place to store food that is required to keep the food to be kept cool (please refer to the WLS Food Safety Policy).
- **Clothing - Parents** are to be encouraged to dress children in clothing that minimises heat and children can be dressed in layers that can be easily removed during activity and of a type that is Sunsafe and complies with the Clothing Policy.  
Refer to [www.arpansa.gov.au/radiationprotection/factsheets/is\\_UVProtection.cfm](http://www.arpansa.gov.au/radiationprotection/factsheets/is_UVProtection.cfm)
- **Parents** are asked to consider whether they put themselves and their children at risk if they are walking to and from the kindergarten on very hot days. If walking to and from

kindergarten they are asked to consider whether keeping the child at home in their own air conditioned comfort may be far more beneficial to the child/family.

- **Monitoring** of the effectiveness of the ventilation/cooling system will be ongoing during *hot weather. Children and adults are susceptible to heat stress on days of high humidity and heat. Staff will continuously monitor children's and educator's wellbeing and act accordingly.*

## **Operating hours in Extreme weather or Electrical Breakdown**

**WLS kindergarten** has effective cooling systems and during normal operating hours this kindergarten will remain open for normal kindergarten sessions.

In the event of inadequate provision of cooling (breakdown of air conditioning or power failure) when the temperature is above 36 degrees, children's families will be contacted to collect children early. Kindergarten staff will remain on duty on these days. Remaining children will be supervised with water cooling activities and kept as comfortable as possible until collected.

### **MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW**

The Director of WLS kindergarten will monitor, evaluate and review the effectiveness of site hot weather policies in September biannually.

The Preschool and Centre Based Care Unit, Early Childhood Programs and Service Development will monitor, evaluate and review the effectiveness of the Hot Weather Guidelines for Preschools in October biannually.

***Endorsed and Approved by Staff, Parent and Friends***

***Updated 2017***

***Review date 2019***

### **References**

Child and Youth Health – Babies in Hot Weather

[www.cyh.com/HealthTopics/HealthTopicDetails.aspx?p=114&np=305&id=1605](http://www.cyh.com/HealthTopics/HealthTopicDetails.aspx?p=114&np=305&id=1605)

Cancer Council SA – SunSmart Early Childhood Program

[www.cancersa.org.au/asp/SunSmart\\_program\\_policy\\_resources.aspx](http://www.cancersa.org.au/asp/SunSmart_program_policy_resources.aspx)

Sports Medicine Australia – Hot Weather Guidelines

[www.smartplay.com.au/ImageLibraryAssets/Resources/National/policy-guidelines-2008-](http://www.smartplay.com.au/ImageLibraryAssets/Resources/National/policy-guidelines-2008-hot-weather-guidelines-nat.pdf)

[hot-weather-guidelines-nat.pdf](http://www.smartplay.com.au/ImageLibraryAssets/Resources/National/policy-guidelines-2008-hot-weather-guidelines-nat.pdf)

Sports Medicine Australia – Beat the Heat Brochure

[www.smartplay.com.au/ImageLibraryAssets/Resources/National/policy-guidelines-2008-beat-the-heat-brochure-nat.pdf](http://www.smartplay.com.au/ImageLibraryAssets/Resources/National/policy-guidelines-2008-beat-the-heat-brochure-nat.pdf)

DECD WH&S – Heat Stress Procedure

[http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/docs/files/communities/docman/1/Heat\\_Stress\\_Procedure.pdf](http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/docs/files/communities/docman/1/Heat_Stress_Procedure.pdf)

DECD WH&S – UV Radiation/Sun Protection Procedure

<http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/docs/documents/1/UvRadiationProcedure.pdf>

DECD Hot weather Policy (Preschools)

<http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/docs/documents/1/HotWeatherGuidelinesPresc.pdf>

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## **Wet weather policy**

### **Purpose**







The purpose of this Policy is to outline the relevant details in relation to wet weather play at this kindergarten. This Policy has been developed in consultation with West Lakes Shore Kindergarten staff and members of the Parents and Friends Committee.

### **Objectives**

The objective of this Policy is to ensure that:

-  Suitable guidelines are in place for wet weather play.
-  Children are adequately dressed when playing outside in the wet weather.
-  There is suitable storage of wet weather wear.
-  Children are kept safe when playing outside in the wet weather.
-  Children's wellbeing is taken into consideration before they engage in wet weather play.

The WLSK's Policy takes into account the need to consider the inclusion of the following strategies:

-  **Guidelines** – Children will be given the opportunity to engage in wet weather play throughout the entire year. Wet weather play will not occur if the rain is extremely heavy or if storms/strong winds are present.
-  **Wet weather wear** – Children are to be dressed in a rain coat, preferably with a hood, and gumboots if they are to engage in wet weather play. If they do not bring these items then they will remain playing under the verandah or inside.
-  **Storage of wet weather wear** – On arrival children are to place their labelled rain coat on the hooks, and their gumboots are kept underneath their raincoats. Children can then swap their shoes for gumboots when outside play begins. Just before outside play finishes, educators will ensure children have taken off their wet raincoats and placed these on the drying rack by the fruit table. Their wet/muddy gumboots will then need to be placed under their coats also. They then either change back into their normal shoes or just have their socks on, ready for group time. All items are to be collected at the end of the day.
-  **Children's safety is paramount** - Educators are to restrict children playing on the climbing equipment and platform during wet weather play as surfaces become slippery. Running is not permitted during wet weather playtime.
-  **Children's wellbeing** – Children are discouraged to play outside in the wet weather if recommended by a parent or if the educator thinks it is not in the best interest for the child's health.
-  **Families** – Are to provide spare clothing from home to enable wet weather play.

### **MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW**

Educators will monitor, evaluate and review the effectiveness of the wet weather policy at the end of Term 3, 2017, in consultation with the Parents and Friends Committee.

***Endorsed and Approved by Staff and Parents and Friends Committee March 2017***  
***REVIEW DATE APRIL 2020***