

WOODSIDE PRESCHOOL



Inclement Weather & Sun Protection Policy

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Preschool

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Director

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Staff

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Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Purpose

The 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 different due to physiological differences.

The policy recognises that sun protection is important to minimise the impact from heat and sun exposure of young children.

Our centre

- provides play spaces conducive to safe play in hot weather.
- promotes positive attitudes towards skin protection including healthy exposure to Vitamin D.
- develops lifestyle practices and an awareness of the need to reduce the level of exposure to the sun.
- incorporates sun protection into the curriculum and reinforces the message through role modelling, play and activities.

Protective Hats

Children and staff are required to wear a suitable hat that effectively covers face, neck and ears – a **legionnaire's hat** , **bucket hat** or a **wide brimmed hat** is required, **not caps**. (Term 2, warm hats may be worn) when outside.

All children are provided with a Woodside Preschool Bucket Hat upon Pre Entry or Preschool enrolment. They are available to purchase for Occasional Care children.

Hats must not have any strings or cords attached to them. *Any strings or cords will be removed by staff to ensure child safety.*

Parents/Caregivers are also encouraged to wear appropriate hats when involved in Pre-school activities.

We have a “no hat, no outside play” policy that is implemented all year round.

Protective Clothing

Children and Staff are required to wear clothing that covers majority of their bodies eg no singlet straps or midriff tops permitted. We require all tops worn to have sleeves in them. The Cancer Council of SA currently recommends *loose fitting shirts/dresses be worn with sleeves and collars and longer style shorts/skirts etc. Clothing made from cool, closely woven fabric is also recommended*

Sunglasses (optional)-children and staff may wear sunglasses that meet Australian Standards (AS/NZ 1067:1:2016)

Indoor Activities

We use air-conditioned areas for indoor play.

Outside Activities

We use shaded areas as much as possible for outdoor play.

During peak UV time outside play times are minimised and children are encouraged to complete activities under shaded areas or inside.

Sunscreen

From the beginning of Term 3 through to end of Term 1, the centre will implement the reapplying of sunscreen at lunch time. Children will be supported to independently apply their own sunscreen. The centre will provide Cancer Council Everyday SPF 30 plus sunscreen with UV-A and UV-B broad spectrum protection. Staff and children will check the UV rating for the day each morning and document this.

Sunscreen should be reapplied when children remain outdoors for more than 2 hours which usually only occurs on full day excursions such as Bush Kindy. While on site the time table allows for uninterrupted blocks of play of up to 2 hours duration so reapplying sunscreen at lunch time is considered adequate protection.

There will be a sunscreen station available throughout the year with educational posters to support the independent application of sunscreen by children if needed.

In Term 1,3 &4 children will wear bucket hats when playing outside.

We ask that parents/caregivers apply sunscreen to your child each day prior to their session, as **we do not encourage it to be in children's bags.**

It is not the responsibility of the centre to apply sunscreen to children attending half-day sessions or Occasional Care. Sunscreen is available at Kindy for emergency use.

Children who require their own sunscreen will need to provide their own individual sunscreen in its original container labelled clearly with their name. *We will also need a signed Health Support Agreement for children using their own sunscreen.* This sunscreen will then be stored safely and given out to children when required.

Families are provided with this policy during the enrolment process and are then reminded regularly via the Newsletter to check the *current policy* on the website.

Inclement weather conditions

The Preschool Director will monitor, or delegate someone to monitor, daily weather forecasts (such as [Bureau of Meteorology](#)) and identify any potential inclement weather risks.

During and following a period of inclement weather

Refer to the [flood safety page](#) for information relating to flooding events.

Consider

Consider the health and safety risks to employees, students and others before allowing them to undertake outdoor activities.

Look out for

- Signs of an approaching storm such as dark sky, high winds, thunder and lightning.
- Tree debris that might pose a slip or trip hazard, such as leaves, nuts and branches.
- Damaged tree limbs and branches that may fall.
- Wet floors and stairs.
- Employees or students having trouble breathing triggered by dust, thunderstorms or panic.

Monitor

Monitor severe weather danger warnings – see [Bureau of Meteorology national warnings summary](#).