

Policy Document No: ELC12
Category: Early Learning
Topic: Sun Protection Policy



Date of Issue: January 2005
Last Review Date: December 2016

Considerations

Keeping children and staff safe.

Children's needs: Individual allergies; cultural differences, other special needs re sunscreen application and outdoor play environment (shade provision) taken into account.

Parent's needs: The knowledge that their child will be protected.

Staff needs: Educating staff regarding appropriate clothing (hats); application of sunscreen; hygiene considerations; role modelling.

Management needs: To be informed and educated in regard to requirements and legislation; to be up to date with current trends; to be assured that the service is meeting legislative requirements and providing high quality care through best practice procedures.

Legislation and sources

Staying Healthy in Child Care by National Health and Medical Research Council
Education and Care Services National Regulations Part 4, regulation 114, 168 (2.a), Ministerial Council For Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs, October 2011

Worksafe website: www.safetyline.wa.gov.au

Standards Australia website – www.standards.com.au

Guide to the National Quality Standard, Standard 2.1.3, 2.3.2

www.sunsmart.com.au

Policy Statement

Our Sun Protection Policy has been developed to ensure that all children, employees and visitors attending this Centre are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful ultraviolet radiation (UVR) from the sun.

How the policy will be implemented –Specific Practices and procedures

- The Centre will require children and staff to wear an appropriate hat that protects the face, neck and ears while they are outside, and the UV index is expected to be above 3.
- The UV index will be checked daily and communicated to staff via the communication board, or noticeboard on the intranet. Staff will be responsible to check the warnings each morning, to ensure they are encouraging appropriate sunsmart behaviour.
- Children without hats may be excluded from outside play. If a staff member is available to stay inside, the children without hats will remain inside. If the ratio does not allow for indoor and outdoor play, children without hats will be required to remain in a shady part of the yard.
- The Centre will endorse the Sunsmart 'Outside 5'.
 - Slip on protective clothing
 - Slap on SPF 30+ Broad Spectrum Sunscreen
 - Slap on a Sun Protective hat
 - Seek Shade
 - Slide on some sunglasses

- As of July 13th 2009, all children (including kinder) will be required to have a Scopus hat for outdoor play. In accordance with recommendations from the Victorian Cancer Council (Sunsmart), strings will be cut off hats to avoid potential hazards.

Children will be encouraged to use available areas of shade for outdoor play activity. Planned outdoor play and activities will be set up in shady areas. Areas used for focused play i.e. sandpits, fixed play equipment, will be provided with shade throughout the year. (*Education and Care Services National Regulations*, reg.114).

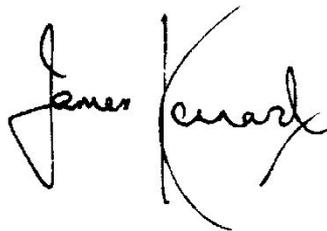
- Management will ensure there are a sufficient number of shelters and trees providing shade in the Centre grounds.
- If the temperature reaches 35 degrees, any outdoor activities must be cancelled or stopped, alternative arrangements will be made for the children inside.
- Employees and visitors to the Centre will act as role models by following the 'outside 5' recommendations.
- Parents will be required to provide SPF 30+ broad spectrum water resistant sunscreen for their children. Sunscreen will be applied liberally at least 15 minutes before going outside. It should be reapplied according to the directions on individual packaging. Staff will assist children with this chore.
- The Sun Protection Policy will be reinforced in a positive way through parent newsletters, noticeboards and meetings, staff will discuss the importance of sun protection with the children within the planned program and spontaneously during the day. The policy will be made easily available to parents.
- Management will keep themselves informed about current trends, recommendations and legislation that impacts on Sun Protection Policy by participating in industry networking groups, maintaining regular contact with relevant resource agencies, and providing opportunities for staff to train in current practices.

When enrolling their child, parents will be:

- Informed of the Sun Protection Policy.
- Asked to buy a Scopus wide brimmed hat, and remove any strings.
- Asked to provide SPF 30+ broad spectrum water resistant sunscreen for their child's use.
- Required to give authority and directive for staff to administer sunscreen to their child.
- Encouraged to practise sun protective behaviours themselves.

Approved by the College Principal;

Date: December 2016

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Kerach". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'J' and 'K'.