

SUN PROTECTION POLICY

Policy Statement

The Service takes every reasonable precaution to protect children and staff from the harmful effects of exposure to the sun while they are at the Service or at any event organised by the Service.

The *Sun Protection Policy* is consistent with the Cancer Council's SunSmart recommendations for outdoor environments, clothing, sunscreen, scheduling of activities, and ongoing education for the children, families and staff at the Service.

Strategies and Practices

- The *Sun Protection Policy* is available to families upon enrolment and staff upon induction.
- Information regarding this policy is included in the Family Handbook.
- Educators promote sun safety awareness in children by including it in daily routines and by using intentional teaching strategies such as role-modeling, discussions, songs, stories and by using games.
- The Service's outdoor playground is adequately shaded. There are four large shade sails covering the majority of the Big Yard, and two large shade sails in the Explorers yard. Trees, a cubby house and a verandah that runs the length of the building contribute to the shaded areas that children access when outside. The built and natural shade features are continuously evaluated for effectiveness and, if required, additional shade structures are built and trees planted.
- Sun protection times are a forecast for the time of day that UV levels will reach 3 or above. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types. In NSW, UV levels are high enough (UV 3 or above) to damage unprotected skin most months of the year. The service has online access to the SunSmart application which provides information on the recommended sun protection times and the current UV level.
- Sun Protection Practices are implemented at all times that the service is operating. Families must apply sunscreen to their child at least 20 minutes before arriving at the service—and if not there is service supplied sunscreen readily available. Following the initial application, staff reapply sunscreen to each child every two hours. Children are required to wear hats whenever they are outside.
- All sun protection measures will be considered when planning excursions.
- Children aged between six and twelve months are encouraged to play in the shaded areas of the outdoor play space.
- Children play outdoors at the discretion of the educators who take into account the weather and are guided by the routines and children's interests.
- Educators aim to set up outdoor play experiences in areas that are adequately shaded. Educators monitor the shade patterns and move outdoor equipment and experiences into shaded areas throughout the day. Educators monitor the temperature of play equipment and turfed areas. The indoor-outdoor program also supports children's agency, allowing them to make choices for themselves in regard to sun safe play spaces
- All staff model positive SunSmart behaviour to the children by:
 - wearing hats and appropriate clothing for all outdoor activities
 - using SPF 50+ broad-spectrum, water resistant sunscreen
 - seeking shade whenever possible

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- The Service supplies 50+ broad-spectrum waterproof sunscreen for all children (including those aged 6-12 months) and staff. The sunscreen is available in each room. Families are required to include information in their enrolment record if their child is allergic to sunscreen (or has a personal preference for the type of sunscreen they wish for the centre to use), and to supply an alternative clearly labelled with the child's name.
- A list of children who have their own sunscreen is recorded for each of the rooms.
- On enrolment, every child is given a hat that complies with the SunSmart guidelines.
- Any child who cannot locate the hat provided is expected to use one from the Service's set of spares.
- Educators ensure children wear clothes with adequate protection from the sun such as t-shirts with sleeves. Any child who does not have suitable clothing is expected to wear clothing from the Service's set of spares. Educators regularly monitor the environment, children's hats and clothing to ensure that they continue to be well protected from UV.
- Educators assist children with sunscreen application as needed, yet ensure children are encouraged and supported to develop independent Sun Smart practices.
- Educators are kept up-to-date with SunSmart recommendations.

References

- *Education and Care Services National Law*
- *Education and Care Services National Regulations*
- *Sunsmart - Sample Sunsmart policy for early childhood (2019)*
<https://www.sunsmart.com.au/communities/early-childhood-schools>
- *Guide to the National Quality Standard*
- Dr Brenda Abbey (*Childcare by Design*)

Policy Review

The Service encourages staff and families to be actively involved in the review of each of its policies and procedures. In addition, the Service will accommodate any new legislative changes as they occur and any issues identified as part of the Service's commitment to quality improvement. The Service consults with relevant recognised authorities as part of the review to ensure the policy contents are consistent with current research and contemporary views on best practice.