

## 6.6.2 Sun Safe Policy

This sun protection policy provides guidelines to:

- ensure all children, educators and staff are protected from over-exposure to UV radiation
- ensure the outdoor environment provides shade for children, educators and staff
- ensure children are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills
- support duty of care and regulatory requirements and
- support appropriate OHS strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harms for educators, staff and visitors

Our service is committed to protecting children and staff from the harmful effects of the sun and heat. Over-exposure to UV radiation in childhood is a major risk factor for developing skin cancer later in life. By teaching sensible sun protection habits from an early age and implementing best-practice measures, we can play a significant role toward reducing the life time risk of skin cancer.

We have identified four strategies to manage heat and sun risks:

- Building and outdoor play space designed to increase shade and reduce heat
- Planning / programming outdoor activities
- Standards for hats, clothing and sunscreen
- Educational programs for heat and sun safety

### Procedures:

Our service will ensure a combination of sun protection measures are applied to children and staff while outside when the UV Index is 3 or above. This policy applies to all service events on and off-site.

### Shade

- Management ensures there are sufficient shelters and trees providing shade in outdoor areas
- Children will be actively encouraged to use shade for outdoor play activity
- Outdoor activities will be planned to occur in shaded areas
- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all outdoor activities
- If the UV Index is 8 (very high) or above, outdoor play will cease. The UV Index is available from the Bureau of Meteorology website at [www.bom.gov.au/weather/UV](http://www.bom.gov.au/weather/UV)

### Hats

- All children will wear a wide brim, bucket or legionnaires style hat that protects the face, neck, ears and crown of the head whenever they are outside or on an excursion
- Children without hats will be supplied with one, or protected from the sun

### Clothing

- Parents are encouraged to dress children in sun protective clothing that protects as much of the skin as possible. Suitable clothing includes collars, elbow length sleeves and knee length or longer style shorts

Version	Date	Review
6.3	30/06/2020	30/06/2021

**Sunscreen**

- We ask parents to apply sunscreen to their children prior to attending. If required, staff will reapply sunscreen using SPF30 or higher broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen
- Sunscreen will be stored in a cool place, out of the sun
- Staff will monitor the expiry date of sunscreen and discard when out of date

**Role Modelling**

Educators/staff members, family members, visitors, students, and volunteers must comply with the *Sun Safety Policy* and role model appropriate practices when with the children in their care by:

- Wearing sun protection hats, clothing and sunglasses when outside
- Applying SPF30 or higher broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen
- Using appropriate shade

**Hydration**

- Parents are asked to pack a water bottle for their child
- Children will have access to clean drinking water as well as having access to their own drink bottles throughout the session
- Water bottles will be taken outside when playing outside

**Education**

- Sun protection is part of the learning program
- Sun protection information will be promoted to staff, families and visitor

**Policy**

- Sun protection practices will be shared with families on enrolment.
- The policy is monitored and reviewed regularly

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