

Sun Protection and Weather Policy

Aim

In accordance with the environmental changes to the sun, our aim is to the best of our abilities protect children and educators from over-exposure to sun and teach children and families good sun protection habits. Exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation in childhood can enhance the risk of developing skin cancer later in life. It is our aim to implement the best SunSmart program through our centre policies and procedures to help protect children and staff from UV exposure.

Sun protection times are a forecast of the time of day UV levels will reach 3 or above. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types and the policy areas should be implemented. In NSW, UV levels are high enough (UV 3 or above) to damage unprotected skin most months of the year. UV levels are particularly high during the summer months and highest in the middle of the day.

Implementation

This Sun Protection Policy was provided to us by the Cancer Council NSW

Scheduling outdoor activities Quality Area 1 – Educational program and practice, Quality Area 2 – Children’s health and safety

- UV levels and daily sun protection times are used to plan daily activities and ensure a correct understanding of local sun protection requirements.
- Sun protection is included in service participation risk assessments, including excursions where all sun protection practices are planned, organised, understood and available.

Shade Quality Area 3 – Physical environment

- The availability of shade is considered for all outdoor activities and excursions.
- Shade options are provided, maintained and promoted to the children.
- Activities and play spaces are set up and moved throughout the day to take advantage of shade patterns.

Shade options can include a combination of portable, natural and built shade. Cancer Council encourages regular shade assessments and the monitoring of existing shade structures, to assist in planning for additional shade.

Hats Quality Area 2 - Quality Area 2 – Children’s health and safety

- All staff and children are encouraged to wear SunSmart hats* that protect their face, neck and ears.
- Children without a SunSmart hat are encouraged to play in the shade or are provided with a spare SunSmart hat.

SunSmart hats include:

- Broad-brimmed hats with a brim size of at least 6cm (adults 7.5cm).
- Bucket hats with a deep crown and brim size of at least 5cm (adults 6cm).
- Legionnaire style hats. Baseball caps or visors do not provide enough sun protection and therefore are not recommended

Clothing Quality Area 2: Children’s health and safety

Staff and children are required to wear SunSmart clothing that covers as much of the skin (especially the shoulders, back and stomach) as possible.

- Children without SunSmart clothing are encouraged to play in an area protected from the sun (e.g. under shade, veranda or indoors) or are provided with spare clothing. *SunSmart clothing includes wearing:
- Loose fitting shirts and dresses with sleeves and collars or covered neckline.
- Longer style skirts, shorts and trousers. Midriff, crop or singlet tops do not provide enough sun protection and therefore are not recommended.

Sunscreen Quality Area 2: Children’s health and safety

- SPF30+ (or higher) broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen is available at the service.
- All staff and children are encouraged to apply sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapply every 2 hours.
- Permission to apply sunscreen is included in the service enrolment form. Where children have allergies or sensitivity to the sunscreen, parents are asked to provide an alternative sunscreen, or the child

encouraged to play in the shade.

- Families ensure sunscreen is applied prior to attending vacation care. Cancer Council recommends usage tests before applying a new sunscreen. All sunscreen is stored in a cool, dry place and the expiry dates monitored.

Role Modelling Quality Area 1 – Educational program and practice, Quality Area 5 – Relationships with children

Staff act as role models and demonstrate SunSmart behaviours by:

- Wearing a SunSmart hat, protective clothing, and wearing sunglasses (optional)
- Applying SPF30+ broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen
- Promoting the use of shade
- Discussing sun protection with children and demonstrating a positive and proactive approach to the management of sun protection in the service.

Sun safety is everyone's responsibility. By being role models ourselves and leading the way with our own sun safety, we can inspire our children to be SunSmart when they step outside.

Education and Information Quality Area 1 – Educational program and practice, Quality Area 4 – Staffing Arrangements, Quality Area 5 – Relationships with children

- Children are provided with opportunities to take leadership roles in managing sun protection e.g. accessing daily UV levels and sun protection times, hat reminders and management of sunscreen.
- Children understand why sun safety is important and learn how to take effective sun protection actions.

Further information is available from Cancer Council NSW's website www.sunsmartnsw.com.au.

Policy Availability Quality Area 6 – Collaborative partnerships with families and communities, Quality Area 7 – Governance and leadership

- Sun protection policy, procedures, requirements and updates are made available to staff, families and visitors.
- Sun protection information and resources are accessible and communicated regularly to families.
- All parents/families are informed of the sun protection policy including

Review Quality Area 4 – Staffing arrangements, Quality Area 7 – Governance and leadership

- Management regularly monitor and review how effectively they implement their sun protection policy.
- Sun protection policies must be updated and submitted to Cancer Council NSW every three years to maintain SunSmart status.

Legislative Requirements

- Occupational Health & Safety Act 1989
- Education and Care services National Law Act 2011
- Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority

Who is affected by this policy?

- Children and Families
- Educators and Management

Sources and further reading:

- The Cancer Council NSW www.cancerCouncil.com.au
- National Quality Framework Guide 2011
- The Cancer Council NSW. (2008). Sun Smart childcare: A guide for service providers. Retrieved 29 June, 2010, from http://www.cancerCouncil.com.au/html/prevention/sunsmart/downloads_schools/ech_sunsmartguide_serviceproviders.pdf

Review: This policy will be reviewed annually. The review will be conducted by:

- Management and Employees
- Interested Parties (Including Families, NSW Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate Department of Education and communities, ACECQA etc.

Last Reviewed: August 2020

