

# Sun Safety Policy

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Research has indicated that young children and babies have sensitive skin that places them at particular risk of sunburn and skin damage. Exposure during these early years of life can greatly increase the risk of developing skin cancer in later life. Early Childhood Services play a major role in minimising a child's UV exposure as children attend during times when UV radiation levels are highest.

## National Quality Standard (NQS)

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety		
2.1	<b>Health</b>	Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted
2.1.1	<b>Wellbeing and comfort</b>	Each child's wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child's needs for sleep, rest and relaxation
2.1.3	<b>Healthy lifestyle</b>	Healthy eating and physical activity are promoted and appropriate for each child.
2.2	<b>Safety</b>	Each child is protected
2.2.1	<b>Supervision</b>	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard

## Education and Care Services National Regulations

Children (Education and Care Services) National Law NSW	
<b>113</b>	Outdoor space natural environment
<b>114</b>	Outdoor space shade
<b>168</b>	Education and care service must have policies and procedures

## RELATED POLICIES

Physical Environment Policy  
 Supervision Policy  
 Clothing Policy  
 Work Health and Safety Policy  
 Health and Safety Policy

## PURPOSE

To protect all children and staff from the harmful effects of ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management and visitors of the Service.

## IMPLEMENTATION

Sun protection times are a forecast for 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 Victoria, 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. UV levels and daily sun protection times can be accessed via the SunSmart App or Cancer Council Australia's home page to determine sun protection requirements. (Source: SunSmart Program / Cancer Council)

- UV Index – Cancer Council of Australia. <https://www.cancer.org.au/preventing-cancer/sun-protection/uv-alert/>
- Current UV rating with the Bureau of Meteorology. <http://www.bom.gov.au/uv/>
- Sunsmart programs for early childhood services in each state – follow the link below: <https://www.cancer.org.au/preventing-cancer/sun-protection/>

### Outdoor Play

- Ultraviolet (UV) radiation is the invisible killer that you can't see or feel. UV radiation can be high even on cool and overcast days. This means you can't rely on clear skies or high temperatures to determine when you need to protect yourself from the sun.
- Based on the above statement we now rely on the UV Index and Daily Sun Protection Times to manage outdoor play and sun protection.
- The UV Index is reported daily by the Bureau of Meteorology. The alert identifies times during the day when the UV level is 3 or above and sun protection is needed.
- When children are on excursions all sun protection practices are planned, organised, understood and available.

### Shade

- All outdoor activities will be planned to occur in shaded areas. Play activities will be set up in the shade and moved throughout the day to take advantage of shade patterns.
- The Service will provide and maintain adequate shade for outdoor play.
- Shade options can include a combination of portable, natural and built shade.
- Regular shade assessments should be conducted to monitor existing shade structures and assist in planning for additional shade
- Shade does not guarantee total protection, so hats, protective clothing and sunscreen should be still be used.

## Hats

- Staff and children are required to wear sun safe hats that protect their face, neck and ears.
- A sun safe hat is: Legionnaire hat. Bucket hat with a deep crown and brim size of at least 6cm (adults 6cm). Broad brimmed hat with a brim size of at least 6cm (adults 7.5cm).

**Please note: Baseball caps or visors do not provide enough sun protection and therefore are not recommended.**

- Children without a sun safe hat will be asked to play in an area protected from the sun (e.g. under shade, veranda or indoors) or can be provided with a spare hat.

## Clothing

- When outdoors, staff and children will wear sun safe clothing that covers as much of the skin (especially the shoulders, back and stomach) as possible.
- This includes wearing: Loose fitting shirts and dresses with sleeves and collars or covered neckline. Longer style skirts, shorts and trousers.
- Children who are not wearing sun safe clothing can be provided with spare clothing or will be required to play under the verandah or in the shade.
- Where practical children wear close fitting, wrap around sunglasses that meet the Australia Standard 1067 (sunglasses – category 2, 3 or 4) and cover as much of the eye area as possible.

**Please note: Midriff, crop or singlet tops do not provide enough sun protection and therefore are not recommended.**

## Sunscreen

- Staff and children will apply SPF30+ broad-spectrum water-resistant 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. Cancer Council recommends usage tests before applying a new sunscreen.
- Sunscreen is stored in a cool, dry place and the use-by-date monitored.
- Sunscreen safety check will be recorded.

## Babies

- Babies under 6 months will not be exposed to direct sunlight and are to remain in dense shade when outside.
- They will wear sun safe hats and clothing and small amounts of SPF30+ broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen may be applied to their exposed skin.
- The use of sunscreen on babies under 6 months is not recommended due to their sensitive skin.

### Role Modelling

Staff and visitors will act as role models and demonstrate sun safe behaviour by:

- Wearing a sun safe hat (see Hats).
- Wearing sun safe clothing (see Clothing).
- Applying SPF30+ broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors.
- Using and promoting shade.
- Wearing sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard 1067 (optional).
- Families and visitors are encouraged to role model positive sun safe behaviour.
- Monitoring the UV Index and Daily Sun Protection Times and throughout the day.
- Regularly monitoring and reviewing the effectiveness of the Sun Safety Policy
- Submitting the Sun Safety Policy to the Cancer Council every two years to maintain SunSmart status

### Learning and skills

- Sun protection is incorporated into the learning and development program.
- The SunSmart policy is reinforced by educators and through children's activities and displays.
- Educators, staff and families are provided with information about sun protection through family newsletters, service handbook, noticeboards and the service's website.
- When enrolling their child, families are:
- informed of the service's SunSmart policy;
- asked to provide a suitable sun protective hat, covering clothing and sunscreen for their child;
- required to give permission for educators to apply sunscreen to their child; and
- encouraged to use SunSmart measures themselves when at the service.

### OHS

As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, educators, staff and visitors:

- wear a suitable sun-protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses;
- apply sunscreen; and
- seek shade whenever possible.

### Education and Information

- Sun protection will be incorporated regularly into learning programs.
- Sun protection information will be promoted to staff, families and visitors.

- Further information is available from the Cancer Council website <https://www.cancer.org.au/preventing-cancer/sun-protection/>
- The Sun Safety Policy will be made available to all Educators, Staff, Families, and Visitors of the Service to ensure a comprehensive understanding about keeping sun safe.

**Source**

- Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority.
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2015,
- ECA Code of Ethics.
- Guide to the National Quality Standard.
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- Children's Services Act 1996
- Supervision in Children's Services. Putting Children First, the Newsletter of the National Childcare Accreditation Council (NCAC) Issue 15, p. 8-11.
- Cancer Council <https://www.cancer.org.au/preventing-cancer/sun-protection/>
- UV Index reported daily by the Bureau of Meteorology <http://www.bom.gov.au/uv/>
- SunSmart Child Care [http://www.imagineeducation.com.au/files/CHC30113/Sunsmart\\_20Childcare\\_A\\_Guide\\_for\\_Service\\_Providers.pdf](http://www.imagineeducation.com.au/files/CHC30113/Sunsmart_20Childcare_A_Guide_for_Service_Providers.pdf)
- Revised National Quality Standard

**Review**

Date Reviewed	Modifications	Next Policy Review Date
August 2017	Minor changes made to comply with being a Sun Smart Service	September 2018
October 2017	Updated the references to comply with the revised National Quality Standard	September 2018
September 2018	Latest updates include terminology and grammar improvements. Added the section displaying related policies on page 1.	September 2019
May 2019	Latest updates have been made to comply with the latest recommendations by the Cancer Council of Australia and the SunSmart program.	<b>September 2019</b>