

SUN PROTECTION POLICY

RATIONALE

Australia has one of the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world, with two out of every three people developing some form of skin cancer before aged 70.

Skin damage, including skin cancer is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Sun exposure in the first 10 years of life is a major factor in determining future skin cancer risk.

AIM:

To ensure that all children and staff attending our centre are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun.

IMPLEMENTATION

In line with DECD and Cancer Council SA Guidelines and our SunSmart status, this policy is implemented from 1st August to 30th April, and when the UV is 3 and above at other times. To assist with the implementation of this policy staff are encouraged to access the daily sun protection times via the SunSmart app, www.myuv.com.au or www.bom.gov.au.

1. Hats will be worn by educators and children when outside, All children will wear legionnaire or bucket hats. Educators will wear a legionnaire or broad brimmed hat.
2. SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen will be applied 20 minutes before going outside during the months of August until end of April, and when the UVR level is 3 and above at other times. Sunscreen will be reapplied every 2 hours while outside. If sunscreen is provided by families due to allergy reasons, please ensure it is SPF 30 or higher, broad spectrum and water resistant. (The need for sunscreen during May, June and July will be at determined by the daily sun protection times, accessible via the SunSmart app, www.myuv.com.au or www.bom.gov.au).
3. Preschool children will be encouraged to apply their own sunscreen with adult supervision to ensure that they are fully protected.
4. Parents/caregivers are encouraged to apply sunscreen before or on arrival at the centre.
5. Outdoor activities will be scheduled outside the peak UV radiation times or in the shade, where possible.
6. Children will be encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside
7. Children who are not wearing sun protective clothing and hat will be directed to play inside or under the verandah.
8. Parents/caregivers are encouraged to dress their children in appropriate protective clothing. When outside, children are required to wear loose fitting clothing that covers as much skin as possible. Clothing made from cool, closely woven fabric is recommended. Tops with elbow length sleeves, collars and knee length or longer style shorts and skirts are best. Children wearing singlet tops or dresses will be required to wear a t-shirt over the top before going outside.

Sources:

www.sunsmart.org.au

Sunsmart Program Policy Resources, A sample skin protection policy for early childhood centres. Cancer Council SA
<http://www.cancersa.org.au>

9. The centre will incorporate sun and skin awareness activities into teaching programs. SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole community (eg via newsletters), and all new educators and families are informed of the policy.
10. Educators will model positive skin protection behaviour, by applying sunscreen, wearing hats and appropriate clothing for outdoor experiences. We encourage all parents and adults to do the same when outside in the yard.
11. On enrolment of their child, parents/caregivers will be:
 - a) Informed of our sun protection policy
 - b) Supplied with an appropriate hat for the child at a small cost to the parent.
12. Our SunSmart practices consider the special needs of infants. All babies under twelve months are not exposed to the direct sun when UV radiation levels are 3 and above. Infants should be protected by shade, clothing and hats. Sunscreen should be applied to small areas of exposed skin not protected by clothing or hats.
13. The Management Committee/Governing Council has a commitment to ensuring that we meet Cancer Council SA Guidelines on providing adequate shade in our yard.

If you require further information regarding any of our policies, go to www.decd.sa.gov.au

In accordance with Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety

To safeguard and promote children's health and safety, minimise risks and protect children from harm, injury and infection. All children have the right to experience quality education and care in an environment that provides for their physical and psychological wellbeing and provides support for each child's growing competence, confidence and independence.

Element 2.1.1 Each child's health needs are supported.

Element 2.3.2 Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury.

www.acecqa.gov.au

Reviewed: February 2018

Next Review: February 2021

Reviewed by: il nido Children's Centre

Sources:

www.sunsmart.org.au

Sunsmart Program Policy Resources, A sample skin protection policy for early childhood centres. Cancer Council SA
<http://www.cancersa.org.au>