

Clothing

SWISH Education

Background

The clothing children wear while at the Service influences the quality of their experiences and their learning because clothes can affect their health, safety, comfort, level of independence and ability to play. These issues apply to the clothes children wear to the Service, the spare clothes they bring, spares provided by the Service, and to dress-up clothes.

Policy statement

The Policy provides families with information about suitable clothing for their child to wear while at the Service. It is consistent with recommendations from recognised authorities such as SunSmart, Red Nose and Kidsafe. The Policy also takes into account the range of activities children are involved in at the Service, the weather, and the need to encourage children's independence and self-help skills.

Family preferences and values, cultural or otherwise, with regard to clothing are respected and accommodated without compromising children's safety while at the Service.

Strategies and practices

- The *Clothing Policy* is provided to parents when they enrol their child in the Service. The *Clothing Policy* is also available on the website for all parents to read. QA 2.1.2
- The Service informs families about suitable clothing for their children while at the Service for safe indoor and outdoor play and sun safety. This information is provided through emails and the website, with special emphasis during change of seasons and unusual weather. QA 2.1.2
- Educators ensure children are dressed appropriately throughout the day. This includes the possibility that some adjustments may need to be made during the day through changes in weather and in the activities children are involved in (e.g. active play and messy play). QA 2.1.2
- Educators, students and volunteers are considered to be role models for children and are expected to meet the Service's dress requirements when at the Service. QA 2.1.4
- Parents are asked to label every item of their child's clothing (including spares) brought to the Service.

When dressing their child for a day at the Service, parents are also asked to consider:

Sun protection

Refer to the Service's *Sun Protection – Parent Supplies Hat – Policy*.

Active play

- Children need to wear clothes that are non-restrictive, durable and can be easily laundered so that they can participate freely in all of the activities available at the Service. Such items as: long skirts; hooded jumpers with cords; hats with cords and toggles; and, rubber thongs and other

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loose footwear are not suitable because they pose safety risks when children are climbing, running. QA 2.1.2

Weather conditions

- Parents are asked to dress their children according to weather conditions and temperatures and to provide a supply of clothing in their child's bag for possible changes in the weather through the day. QA 2.1.2

Art and craft activities / messy activities

- Parents are asked to dress their child in clothing that allows participation in messy activities, and can be easily laundered. Good or 'special' clothes are not suitable because children can become distressed if these become marked. QA 2.1.2
- Children participating in art and craft, clay or water play, cooking or any other form of messy play will be encouraged to wear one of the Service's protective smocks or aprons. QA 2.1.2

Independence and self-help skills

- Educators encourage children's self-help skills (e.g. taking off and putting on shoes and socks, removing clothing, pulling up clothing after toileting). Routines and 'dressing times' are unhurried and considered to be opportunities for interaction and conversation with children and developing self-help skills. QA 1.1.3
- In order to facilitate children's self help and independence, parents are asked to dress children in:
 - clothes they can undo easily and remove quickly for toileting. Clothes with elastic waists are preferred to overalls and to trousers with zips and buttons.
 - shoes that are easiest to put on, such as those with velcro clips. QA 1.1.3

Protective behaviours and practices

- Children are encouraged to dress/undress themselves. Assistance is provided when necessary. QA 2.1.2

Footwear

- Children are to wear non-slip shoes, closed in shoes that are flexible and provide a good grip whilst being safe for workshop activities. Thongs, clogs and gumboots are not suitable for running, climbing and some workshop activities. QA 2.1.2

Spare clothing

- Parents are asked to provide spare clothing for their child during intermittent weather. QA 2.1.2
- The Service has a supply of spare clothing, consistent with its *Clothing Policy*, to be used when needed. If a child needs to use these clothes, parents are asked to launder and return them as soon as possible. QA 2.1.2

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Soiled clothing

- Soiled clothing is placed in a plastic bag which is stored in a container out of the reach of children. Parents are asked to collect any soiled clothing at the end of each day. QA 2.1.3, 3.1.1

Responsibilities of parents

- To dress their child in accordance with this Policy.
- To provide spare clothing for their child when requested.
- To label every item of their child's clothing (including spares) brought to the Service.

Procedure and forms

- N/A

Links to other policies

- Educator Professionalism, Ethics and Reflection
- Enrolment and Orientation Policy
- Excursion Policy
- Sun Protection Policy

Links Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011, National Quality Standard 2011

QA	1.1.3	All aspects of the program, including routines, are organised in ways that maximise opportunities for each child's learning
	2.1.1	Each child's wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child's need for sleep, rest and relaxation
	2.1.2	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented
	3.1.1	Outdoor and indoor spaces, buildings, fixtures and fittings are suitable for their purpose, including supporting the access of every child

Sources

- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- Guide to the National Quality Standard 2011
- Stonehouse, A. (2009). *NCAC Factsheet: Children's clothing in child care*. http://ncac.acecqa.gov.au/educator-resources/factsheets/qias_factsheet_15_childrens_clothing%20.pdf accessed 23 December 2017
- Sunsmart. (2017). *Slip on protective clothing: How to choose sun protective clothing*. http://www.sunsmart.com.au/sun_protection/slip accessed 23 December 2017

Further reading and useful websites

- Red Nose – <https://rednose.com.au/> accessed 23 December 2017

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- SunSmart – <http://www.sunsmart.com.au/> accessed 23 December 2017

Policy review

The Service encourages staff and parents to be involved in the annual 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 the Service's commitment to quality improvement. The Service consults with relevant recognised authorities as part of the annual review to ensure the policy contents are consistent with current research and contemporary views on best practice.

Version Control

Version	Date Reviewed	Approved By	Comments/Amendments	Next Review Date
1	8 January 2018	Dr Brenda Abbey (Author)	Updated to changed NQF requirements 1 February 2018. Service to modify policies to its specific needs.	
2	1 May 2018	Rebecca Evans	Updated to reflect SWISH procedures.	1 May 2019