

Sun Protection – Parent Supplies Hat

SWISH Education

Background

Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world. Of all new incidents of cancer diagnosed in Australia each year, 80 per cent are skin cancers. Given that children in childcare attend during peak ultraviolet radiation (UVR) times and that they spend much of their day outdoors, childcare has a major role in minimising children's UVR exposure. Further, childcare provides the ideal opportunity to instil in children long-term positive SunSmart habits.

Policy statement

The Service takes every reasonable precaution to protect children and staff from the harmful effects of exposure to the sun while they are at the Service or at any event organised by the Service.

The *Sun Protection Policy* is consistent with the Cancer Council's SunSmart recommendations for outdoor environments, clothing, sunscreen, scheduling of activities, and ongoing education for the children, families and staff at the Service.

Strategies and practices

- The *Sun Protection Policy* is provided to parents when they enrol their child in the Service, and their attention is specifically drawn to their responsibilities under this Policy. The *Sun Protection Policy* is also provided for parents to review on the Service website.
- The sun safety message is promoted and positively reinforced amongst families through notice boards, the website and providing them with up-to-date SunSmart materials, when available.
- Educators promote sun safety awareness in children by role modeling it in daily routines.
- The Service's outdoor playground is adequately shaded. The natural shade features are continuously evaluated for effectiveness.
- Children play outdoors at the discretion of the educators who take into account the weather and are guided by the routines and children's interests.
- During Summer months educators set up activities in the shade, wherever possible, and actively encourage children to play in the shade. At times when the weather becomes too hot, educators move play to protected and shady areas, such as verandahs, or inside.
- All staff model positive SunSmart behaviour to the children by:
 - wearing hats and appropriate clothing for all outdoor activities
 - using SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water resistant sunscreen
 - seeking shade whenever possible
 - wearing sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard (AS/NZS1067:2003).

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- Due to allergies to sunscreen the Service will not supply any sunscreen to children and require parents to provide sunscreen for their children each day. Parents are asked to liberally apply a 30+ broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen to all exposed areas of their children's skin.
- Educators ensure that all children wear a broad-brimmed hat, legionnaire style hat, or bucket hat with a deep crown that provides sun protection for the face, neck and ears when outside.
- Upon arrival, every parent is asked if they have supplied a hat for their child. If a hat is not supplied that day children will be given a hat the choice of buying a hat that complies with the SunSmart guidelines and the parents accounts charged accordingly per hat or borrowing a spare hat.
- Educators ensure children wear clothes with adequate protection from UVR when playing outdoors. Any children without suitable clothing will be required to play indoors or in shaded areas.
- Water is offered to children frequently throughout the day regardless of whether they are indoors or outdoors.
- If parents supply their child with sunglasses that are wrap-around and/or are close fitting (that meet AS 1067-EPF 10 is best), educators will ensure children wear them during outdoor play.
- Educators are kept up-to-date with SunSmart recommendations.
- SWISH operates as a HATS OFF in June and July site. This means children are not required to wear hats in the winter session.

Responsibilities of parents

- To apply sunscreen to their child on arrival at the Service.
- To provide a SunSmart hat for their child each time their child attends the Service, and to ensure the hat is clearly named and kept clean.
- To dress their child in SunSmart clothing each time the child attends the Service.
- To model positive SunSmart behaviour to the children when at the Service.
- To notify the Service in writing if their child is allergic to sunscreen, and to supply an alternative sunscreen clearly labelled with the child's name.

Procedures and forms

- Sunscreen Application Chart

Links to other policies

- Clothing Policy

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- Educational Program Policy
- Enrolment and Orientation Policy
- Excursion Policy

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

Regs	114	Outdoor shade
	168	Policies and procedures

QA	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
	2.1.3	Healthy eating and physical activity are promoted and appropriate for each child
	2.2.1	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard
	3.1.1	Outdoor and indoor spaces, buildings, fixtures and fittings are suitable for their purpose, including supporting the access of every child
	4.2.2	Professional standards guide practice, interactions and relationships
	6.1.1	The expertise, culture, values and beliefs of families are respected and families share in decision-making about their child's learning and wellbeing
	7.2.3	Educators, co-ordinators and staff members' performance is regularly evaluated, and individual plans are in place to support learning and development

Sources

- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- Guide to the National Quality Standard 2011
- Shaw, M. (2011). *Keeping sun safe in child care*. <http://ncac.acecqa.gov.au/educator-resources/pcf-articles/KeepingSunSafeMar2011.pdf> accessed 24 December 2017

Further reading and useful websites

- Cancer Council Australia – <http://www.cancer.org.au> accessed 24 December 2017
- Cancer Council NSW – <https://www.cancercouncil.com.au/cancer-prevention/sun-protection/sunsmart-program/> accessed 24 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.	

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2	2 May 2018	Rebecca Evans	Updated to support SWISH procedures	2 May 2019
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