



Sun Protection policy & procedures for Wudinna RSL Memorial Kindergarten

Please make sure sun protection is used during the *daily sun protection times* or *whenever UV levels are 3 or higher*.

Policy statement

Our service recognises the value of outdoor play and learning in a sun safe way. We are committed to ensuring all children, educators and staff are protected from ultraviolet (UV) radiation for all outdoor activities.

This includes;

- providing shade in the outdoor environment,
- ensuring all sun protection measures are promoted and utilised,
- encouraging and supporting children to develop independent sun protection skills, and
- providing learning opportunities for children, staff and families.

Background

The sun's UV can't be seen or felt. Whatever the weather, it's important for people of all skin types to use sun protection whenever UV levels are three or higher.

Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. More than two in three Australians will be diagnosed with skin cancer in their lifetime. Infants and toddlers up to four years of age are particularly vulnerable to UV damage due to lower levels of melanin and a thinner stratum corneum (the outermost layer of skin). UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in life.

By teaching sensible sun protection habits from an early age and implementing sun protection measures, early childhood services can play a significant role in reducing skin cancer risk.

Scope

This policy applies to all;

- children, staff, volunteers, visitors and contractors,
- activities and events on and off-site,
- service environments and environments where service events occur.

Procedures

1. Environment

<p>Regs: 100, 113, 114, 116, 168</p> <p>QA2: 2.2.1, 2.1.3</p> <p>QA3: 3.1, 3.1.1, 3.2, 3.2.1</p> <p>QA7: 7.1.2</p>	<p><i>Seek shade</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The approved provider and nominated supervisor ensures there is enough shade (natural, built, temporary) available in the outdoor area particularly in high-use areas. • The availability of shade is considered when planning all outdoor activities. • Children are encouraged to choose and use available areas of shade when outside. • Children who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing are asked to choose a shady play space or a suitable area protected from the sun. • In consultation with the service's committee, shade provision and UV reflective surfaces are considered in plans for refurbishments and future buildings and grounds.
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2. Behaviours

<p>Regs: 100, 113, 114, 116, 168, 170, 171, 172</p> <p>QA2: 2.2.1</p>	<p><i>Slip on sun-protective clothing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children wear loose-fitting clothing that covers as much skin as possible. • Families are asked to choose tops with elbow-length sleeves, higher necklines (or collars) and knee-length or longer style shorts for their child. The kindy uniform is rated as an "Excellent" level of UV protection.
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<p>QA3: 3.1, 3.1.1, 3.2, 3.2.1</p> <p>QA7: 7.1.2</p>	<p><i>Slap on a sun protective hat</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All children wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears (legionnaire, broad-brimmed or bucket style). Caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative. Children without a sun protective hat are provided with a spare hat where possible. <p><i>Slop on sunscreen</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPF50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen is supplied by the service and/or families. Sunscreen is applied before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours, or more frequently if sweating or swimming. Children are required to be wearing sunscreen upon arrival. To help develop independent skills ready for school, children from three years of age are encouraged and given opportunities to apply their own sunscreen under supervision of staff. The expiry date of sunscreen is monitored. Where children have allergies or sensitivities to sunscreen, parents are asked to provide an alternative sunscreen or children are encouraged to play in the shade. <p><i>Slide on sunglasses [if practical]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where practical children are invited to wear close-fitting, wrap-around sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard 1067 (Sunglasses: Category 2, 3 or 4) and cover as much of the eye area as possible.
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Learning and skills / Community engagement

<p>Regs: 100, 113, 114, 116, 168</p> <p>QA1: 1.1, 1.1.1, 1.1.3, 1.2, 1.2.2, 1.2.3</p> <p>QA2: 2.1, 2.1.3</p> <p>QA3: 3.2, 3.2.1</p> <p>QA5: 5.2, 5.2.1</p> <p>QA6: 6.1, 6.1.2, 6.1.3, 6.2</p> <p>QA7: 7.1.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sun protection is incorporated into the learning and development program. The Sun Protection policy is reinforced by educators and through children's activities and displays. Children are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures at the service including taking leadership roles in managing sun protection e.g., accessing daily sun protection times, hat and sunscreen reminders, and supporting other children to be SunSmart. Educators and families are encouraged to role model appropriate sun protection strategies in all service activities. <p>When enrolling their child, families are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> informed of the service's Sun Protection policy; asked to provide a suitable sun protective hat, covering clothing and sunscreen for their child; asked to provide written authority for staff to apply sunscreen to their child; and encouraged to use SunSmart measures themselves when at the service.
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Governance and leadership

<p>Regs: 100, 113, 114, 116, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172</p> <p>QA2: 2.2, 2.2.1</p> <p>QA7: 7.1, 7.1.2</p>	<p>As part of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) UV risk controls and role-modelling, educators, staff and visitors are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> wear a suitable sun-protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses; apply sunscreen; and seek shade whenever possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sun protection considerations and actions are included in risk assessment for excursions and excursion checklists.
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Monitoring and review

<p>Regs: 100, 113, 114, 116, 168</p> <p>QA2: 2.1.2, 2.2, 2.2.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff, including approved provider, nominated supervisor and educators - with input from families and children where possible - monitor and review the effectiveness of our Sun Protection policy (at least every three years) and revise the policy as required. Our Sun Protection policy is available to staff, families and visitors.
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QA3: 3.2.1	
QA6: 6.1.2, 6.1.3	
QA7: 7.1, 7.1.2	

QA 1	Educational program and practice
S 1.1 Program	The Educational program enhances each child's learning and development
E 1.1.1	Curriculum decision making contributes to each child's learning and development outcomes in relation to their identity, connection with community, wellbeing, confidence as learners and effectiveness as communicators.
E 1.1.3	All aspects of the program, including routines, are organised in ways that maximise opportunities for each child's learning.
S 1.2 Practice	Educators facilitate and extend each child's learning and development
E 1.2.1	Educators are deliberate, purposeful, and thoughtful in their decisions and actions.
E 1.2.2	Educators respond to children's ideas and play and extend children's learning through open-ended questions, interactions and feedback.
E 1.2.3	Each child's agency is promoted, enabling them to make choices and decisions that influence events and their world.
S 1.3 Assessment and Planning	Educators and co-ordinators take a planned and reflective approach to implementing the program for each child.
QA 2	Children's health and safety
S 2.1 Health	Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted
E 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.
E 2.1.2	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
E 2.1.3	Healthy eating and physical activity are promoted and appropriate for each child.
S 2.2 Safety	Each child is protected
E 2.2.1	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
QA 3	Physical environment
S 3.1 Design	The design of the facilities is appropriate for the operations of a service
E 3.1.1	Outdoor and indoor spaces, buildings, fixtures and fittings are suitable for their purpose, including supporting the access of every child.
E 3.1.2	Premises, furniture and equipment are safe, clean and well maintained.
S 3.2 Use	The service environment is inclusive, promotes competence and supports exploration and play-based learning.
E 3.2.1	Outdoor and indoor spaces are organised and adapted to support every child's participation and to engage every child in quality experiences in both built and natural environments.
QA 4	Staffing Arrangements
S 4.2 Professionalism	Management, educators and staff are collaborative, respectful and ethical.
E 4.2.2	Professional standards guide practice, interactions and relationships.
QA 5	Relationships with children
S 5.1 Relationships between educators and children	Respectful and equitable relationships are maintained with each child.
S 5.2 Relationships between children	Each child is supported to build and maintain sensitive and responsive relationships
E 5.2.1 Collaborative learning	Children are supported to collaborate, learn from and help each other.



QA 6	Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
S 6.1 Supportive relationships with families	Respectful relationships with families are developed and maintained and families are supported in their parenting role.
E 6.1.1	Families are supported from enrolment to be involved in the service and contribute to service decisions.
E 6.1.2	The expertise, culture, values and beliefs of families are respected, and families share in decision-making about their child's learning and wellbeing.
E 6.1.3	Current information is available to families about the service and relevant community services and resources to support parenting and family wellbeing.
S 6.2 Collaborative partnerships	Collaborative partnerships enhance children's inclusion, learning and wellbeing.
QA 7	Governance and Leadership
S 7.1 Governance	Governance supports the operations of a quality service.
E 7.1.2	Systems are in place to manage risk and enable the effective management and operation of a quality service
E 7.1.3	Roles and responsibilities are clearly defined, and understood, and support effective decision making and operation of the service.
S 7.2 Leadership	Effective leadership builds and promotes a positive organisational culture and professional learning community.

Roles and responsibilities

Roles	Responsibilities
Approved provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that obligations under the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations are met. • Take reasonable steps to ensure that the nominated supervisor, educators and staff follow the sun protection policy and procedures. • Ensure adequate shading over areas for both active and passive outdoor play. • Ensure access to an adequate supply of sunscreen for children, educators and staff. • Ensure staff dress code/uniform includes sun protective clothing and hats. • Ensure that copies of the policy and procedures are readily accessible and available to nominated supervisors, coordinators, educators, staff, volunteers and families. • Ensure families are aware of and agree to support the service's sun protection policy and procedures.
Nominated supervisor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the sun protection policy and procedures as outlined in the document. • Monitor the daily sun protection times for your location. • Communicate these to educators, staff, children and families. • Support the implementation of sun protection measures during the sun protection times. • Promote sun safe practices with all children, families, educators and staff within the service.
Educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the sun protection policy and procedures as documented. • Monitor the daily sun protection times for your location and manage sun safe outdoor play and learning accordingly. • Monitor, and where practical, adjust outdoor learning and play experiences to minimise direct and indirect UV exposure. • Utilise and role-model sun safe practices. • Communicate with families about SunSmart practices in general and specific expectations within the service (e.g., wearing protective clothing, sun protective hat styles).
Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware of, support and follow the service's sun protection policy and procedures. • Ensure children are dressed in appropriate sun protective clothing. • Apply sunscreen prior to attending the preschool.



Policy last reviewed:	DECEMBER 2024
Approved by:	GOVERNING COUNCIL
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Use all five forms of sun protection



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

