



Padthaway Preschool

Sun Protection Policy

This policy will operate throughout the year to reinforce the sun protection behaviour, and to acknowledge that damaging UV rays are present all year round.

Rationale

Padthaway Preschool is a Cancer Council – Sun Smart site, committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy environment. This policy aims to ensure that all children and staff attending the site are protected (as much as possible) from skin damage and heat stress caused by the sun or its radiation. Anyone on site will practice a combination of sun protection measures throughout the year when the UV rating is 3 or above. When UV levels reach 3, it is strong enough to damage unprotected skin. When UV radiation levels are below 3, children and educators have the opportunity for safe UV exposure to assist with vitamin D production.

Guidelines and Considerations

This policy incorporates information from the Cancer Council - Sun Smart Advice for Early Childhood Centres booklet and associated Department for Education policies.

Staff Roles and Responsibilities

Each employee is legally responsible for their own health and safety and must avoid adversely affecting the health and safety of any other person.

Staff will be positive role models who practice skin protection behaviours. This means that staff will:

- ▶ Where practical, set up planned outdoor activities in shaded areas, under the verandah or inside.
- ▶ Peak UV times and shade availability will be considered when planning outdoor activities and or excursions.
- ▶ Staff will supply and assist children to apply SPF50+, broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen before going outdoors. Sunscreen should to be applied 20 minutes before sun exposure and reapplied every 2 hours when outdoors.
- ▶ Educators will incorporate sun and skin awareness activities into teaching programs.
- ▶ Educators will promote sun smart behaviour and model appropriate practice.
- ▶ Be expected to use and direct children to shaded areas in all possible instances.
- ▶ Ensure drinking water is available at all times and encourage all children to keep up fluid intake with personal water bottles.
- ▶ To assist in preventing heat stress, children will only participate in indoor play when temperatures are over 35 degrees.
- ▶ Ensure the temperature of the air conditioners remain comfortable for all children and adults.
- ▶ Provide 1 x school hat (yellow, bucket style hat with 5cm+ brim) free of charge per child which stays at Preschool and is clearly labelled with the child's name.
- ▶ ensure there is regular maintenance of shelters and trees providing shade
- ▶ ensure all air conditioners are regularly serviced in accordance to the preventative maintenance schedule

Parent Responsibilities

- ▶ Familiarise themselves with this policy and their role in sun safety
- ▶ Use of SPF 30 or higher, broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen on their child at the beginning of each preschool day. Please check to make sure the sunscreen has not been made with nut

oils to adhere to the Allergy Awareness Policy e.g. the Hamilton Sunscreen brand has no nut oils/traces in it.

- ▶ Make clothing choices for greater sun protection of their child - shirts/tops with collars and elbow length or long sleeves are recommended for best protection as are longer style shorts/dresses. School uniforms are not mandated for the preschool, however families may choose to purchase uniform items from the Front Office. Uniform items are in line with SunSmart requirements.
- ▶ To role model by wearing a sun safe hat and clothing including shirts with sleeves when volunteering at the preschool and on excursions etc.

Link to National Quality Standards

2.3 Each child is protected.

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

