

Yankalilla Community Children's Centre

SUN PROTECTION POLICY

The purpose of our policy is to ensure that all children and staff attending our Centre are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun. The policy also provides a balance between sun protection (to lower the risk of skin cancer) and sun exposure (for the production and maintenance of vitamin D).

The following procedures are in place from 1st September until 30th April and when the UV radiation level is three and above. From May to August inclusive, staff will check the UV alert each morning at www.bom.gov.au/weather/uv and will implement the policy only for the time periods specified on the website for that day.

1. Children and staff will be encouraged to avoid direct exposure to the sun between 10am and 3pm
2. Children and staff will wear a broad brimmed or legionnaire style of hat (sunsafe) whenever they are outside.
 - NB: Note: Due to the possible risk of entrapment - Hats must not have chin straps, cords, drawstrings or toggles. Hats that have crown adjustment are ok.
3. Children arriving at the centre without a sunsafe hat when sun protection is required will be provided with a hat and \$5.50 will be added to the child's account.
4. Babies (under the age of 12 months) will be kept out of the direct sunlight as much as possible and will always be protected by shade, clothing and hats. Sunscreen will be applied to any area of exposed skin not protected by clothing or hats.
5. Children must wear clothing that offers protection from the sun. Clothing should cover their shoulders, back and front. Midriff and singlet tops are not appropriate, as they do not offer adequate protection from the sun.
6. Outdoor activities where possible will be held in shady areas.
7. Age appropriate information on skin protection will be included in childcare and preschool programs.
8. Staff will be positive role models who practice skin protective behaviours.

This will mean that:

 - (a) Staff will be required to wear a broad brimmed or legionnaire style of hat and appropriate clothing for all outdoor activity
 - (b) Staff will be expected to use and direct children to shaded areas in all possible instances
9. On enrolment of their child, parents will be:
 - (a) informed of the SunSmart policy
 - (b) provided the opportunity to purchase a Centre Sun Safe hat for their child – (Cost \$5.50 Includes GST)
 - (c) informed of their responsibility to apply sunscreen to their child prior to or on arrival at the centre.
 - (d) encouraged to practice skin protective behaviours themselves as positive role models for their children.
10. SunSmart behaviour will be regularly reinforced and promoted through the whole community (ie via newsletters) and all new families and staff members will be informed of the policy.
11. Sunscreen Procedure:
 - a) The Centre will provide SPF 30+ broad spectrum sunscreen.
 - b) Parents will be required to apply sunscreen to their child on arrival or prior to arrival at the centre.
 - c) Parents will highlight their child's name with a highlighter pen on the "sign-in" sheet to signify that they have applied sunscreen to their child.
 - d) Staff will reapply sunscreen throughout the day in accordance with manufactures' instructions to all children.

Source - The Cancer Council SA. *Vitamin D* Accessed 3rd June 2014 from www.cancersa.org.au
The Cancer Council SA *SunSmart for Early Childhood Services* Accessed 5th November 2013 from www.cancersa.org.au
Department for Education and Child Development Hazard Alert 39: *Cords, drawstrings and toggle entrapment* - February 2017