



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

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Sun protection policy

National Quality Standard Area 2 | Children's health and safety

Children have the right to experience quality education and care in an environment that safeguards and promotes their health, safety, and wellbeing.

Purpose

All department school sites, and early childhood education and care services must have a sun protection policy in effect for school terms 1, 3 and 4 and whenever ultraviolet (UV) radiation levels reach 3 or above.

Sites must inform the preschool/kindergarten/children's centre community including employees, students, parents, and volunteers of the sun protection policy. Wherever possible, children and young people are encouraged to be responsible for their own sun protection.



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Using sun protection

This site uses a combination of sun protection measures for all outdoor activities on- and off-site during terms 1, 3 and 4 including:

Clothing

Sun protective clothing is encouraged for children to wear at this site. Clothing should be cool, loose fitting and made of closely woven fabric. This includes shirts with elbow length sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts and rash tops or t-shirts for water play.

Sunscreen

Children with allergies are asked to provide their own SPF30+ (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen and the site supplies SPF30+ (or higher) broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for children's use.

Sunscreen is applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours if remaining outdoors.

Strategies are in place to remind children to apply sunscreen before going outdoors.

- Educators ensure every child is provided with sunscreen before lunchtime. This ensures that sunscreen is applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors.
- Sunscreen stations are set up with signs to remind children to wear sunscreen. Children are specifically reminded to apply sunscreen at afternoon snack time.

Families with children who have naturally very dark skin are encouraged to discuss their vitamin D requirements with their GP or paediatrician.

Hats

All children are encouraged and reminded to wear hats that protect their face, neck, and ears e.g., legionnaire, broad brimmed or bucket hats, whenever they are outside. Baseball or peak caps are not acceptable.

Shade

Care is taken during the peak UV radiation times, and outdoor activities are scheduled outside of these times or in the shade where possible. Outdoor events are scheduled to be held during term two or earlier in the day where practical.

Children are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.

Children who do not have appropriate hats or clothing are asked to stay in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun or wear a spare kindergarten hat.

Curriculum

Programs on safety in the sun are included at an age appropriate level are included in the curriculum for all year levels.

Sun Smart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole kindergarten community through newsletters, parent meetings, staff meetings, student, and teacher activities and in student enrolment packs.

Strategies for reinforcing Sun Smart behaviour at our site:

- Parent communication: Parents are regularly informed during parent meetings and through newsletters about the importance of sending children with hats and applying sunscreen before coming to kindy.

- Staff reminders: Staff members consistently remind children to wear hats while playing outdoors. Prompts such as "no hat, no play" or "play in the shade" are used to reinforce this behaviour.
- Staff meetings: During staff meetings, decisions are made to ensure sun safety for children during Term 1, 3, and 4. Staff members are informed if parents have requested to apply specific sunscreen provided by them.
- Spare hats: Spare hats are made available in case children forget to bring their own hats.
- Allergy notification: Parents are notified to provide their own sunscreen if their child has any allergies.
- Individual sunscreen use: Children who have their own sunscreen are reminded to use their own sunscreen.
- Modelling sun-safe behaviour's: staff modelling sun-safe behaviours themselves, such as wearing hats, sunglasses, and applying sunscreen, provide a visual example for children to follow.

These strategies are aimed at promoting Sun Smart behaviour and ensuring sun safety throughout the site.

Supporting information

The information has been extracted from the *Cancer Council SA SunSmart early childhood policy guidelines* (https://www.cancersa.org.au/uploads/sunsmart/SS_ECC_Policy_Guidelines.pdf).

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