



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

Skin Protection and Hot Weather Policy

Rationale:

Skin Protection – Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world and skin damage is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. The Cancer Council of SA recommends that a skin protection Policy is in place from September 1 until 30th April and between 10am and 3pm at times when UV radiation levels are above 3.

It is important to balance sun protection with safe sun exposure for the production of Vitamin D for bone growth and development. During May to August sun protection for most people is not necessary.

Hot Weather – Children are susceptible to heat illness and measures can be followed to reduce the incidence of heat related illness.

This Policy is in line with the ACECQA regulations (NQS) and DECD Policy.

The Preschool

Believes it is important to promote among children, staff and parents:

- Positive attitudes towards skin protection
- Lifestyle practices that can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and the number of related deaths
- Personal responsibility for and decision making about skin protection and health during hot weather.

It is an expectation that all staff, students and parents of Rose Park Preschool will use the following Skin Protection and Hot Weather strategies:

- Outdoor activities will be scheduled in shaded areas of the service at high UV times
- Appropriate clothing to protect skin includes wearing a broad rimmed hat, legionnaire style hat or bucket hat whenever involved in outdoor activities. Children not wearing a hat will be expected to stay in the shade or outdoors.
- A broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen with an SPF of 30+ will be applied prior to attendance on high UV days. Sunscreen will be reapplied after lunch by the service if supplied by the family or the child will be expected to stay in the shade or indoors.
- Children are to be offered water or fluids frequently and they have access at all times to water.
- Parents are expected to provide children with adequately cool clothing that is layered and can be adjusted with temperature gains to minimize heat illness.
- Parents are expected to provide lunch that can be cooled by a freezer brick and site will store food in a cool dry area.

- Staff ensure their own health and safety during times of high temperature and practices are paramount.
- The service provides a safe and comfortable environment for all children at all times that ensure adequate heating and cooling is provided for children.
- In the event of inadequate provision of cooling (breakdown of air-conditioning) when temperature is above 36 degrees, children's families will be contacted to collect children early, and remaining children will be supervised with water cooling activities until time of collection.

Curriculum

The staff at Rose Park Preschool will reinforce the Sunsafe message and heat illness awareness through role modeling and including appropriate teaching activities, in line with the EYLF Learning Outcome "...Wellbeing".

Learning activities are set up in shaded areas and during very hot weather play will occur inside for the majority of the day.

Staff will be encouraged to keep up to date with new information and resources from the Cancer Council SA and health authorities.

The Governing Council is committed to the provision of adequate shade and annual reviews of the outdoor area.

***This policy** will be shared with all new staff and families and available to view in the Preschool Policies Booklet and on the preschool website.*

***Enrolled families** will be asked to confirm that they have read and understood this Policy by signing the Information & consents Form at the time of enrolment.*

Endorsed and ratified by staff and Governing Council October, 2014, to be reviewed October, 2016.