

Sun Protection Policy

NQS

QA2	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.
	2.2.1	At all times reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard
QA7	7.1.3	Roles and responsibilities are clearly defined, and understood, and support effective decision making and operation of the service.

National Regulations

Reg	114	Outdoor space – shade
	168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures
	170	Policies and Procedures to be followed

MTOP

3.3	Children and young people are aware of and develop strategies to support their own mental and physical health, and personal safety
-----	--

Aim

To ensure our duty of care to children, educators and volunteers is upheld by providing adequate protection from the sun. To educate and role model for children appropriate and thorough sun protection practices.

Related Policies

Rest, Relaxation and Clothing Policy

Implementation

This service uses a combination of sun protection measures during the following times when the UV Index is 3 or above. During these times children will be required to wear a light blue bucket hat during all outdoor play. Children will also be supplied with SPF30 or higher sunscreen. Children who do not have their own OSHC hat, will be able to use one of our spares.

Children who refuse to wear a suitable hat or clothing will be asked to play in the shade. Hats are compulsory for excursions during vacation care.

Before School

As it is very unlikely for the UV Index to reach 3 or higher before school, children will not be required to wear hats or use sunscreen while outdoors. However, sunscreen is available for use and parents are welcome to assist their children with application upon arriving at the service.

After School

Sun protection is required during terms 1 and 4, and whenever the UV is 3 and above at other times. Staff will be notified of the daily UV Index and sun protection times on our 'Daily Plan' to determine if sun protection measures are required. If the index is 3 at midday, children will not be required to wear hats or reapply sunscreen at our snack time which is 4:00pm as we can presume the index will be lower by this time.

Vacation Care

Sun protection is required from 1st August to 30th April and whenever UV reaches 3 and above at other times. Children and educators will be expected to wear hats and use sunscreen. Children are reminded to apply sunscreen before going outside and will reapply as close to every two hours as possible on excursions. Consideration will be given when planning outdoor activities so they are in the morning or later afternoon to avoid the highest UV in the middle of the day. Educators will encourage children wishing to play outdoors to play in shade where possible.

Educators and volunteers are also supplied with a navy-blue hat and sunscreen for use during these times. Educators are encouraged to act as role models for the children of the service and demonstrate correct application of sunscreen on all visible parts of their body that will be exposed to sun.

Families are encouraged to send their children to our service wearing appropriate clothing that covers as much skin as possible. Information is sent to in our Parent Handbook and Vacation Care information about our Sun Protection Policy.

Children's Clothing

Educators, staff and volunteers will discuss with parents the need for children to be dressed in clothes that:

- Are suitable for the weather i.e. loose and cool in summer to prevent overheating and warm enough for cold weather including outdoor play in winter.
- Protect them from the sun during outdoor play. Clothes that help protect from the sun include, collared tops, long sleeves and longer shorts and pants.

Educators are expected to follow the sun protection policy and role model correct sun smart practices for children, taking time to use this as a learning opportunity for children, answering questions they might have and taking opportunities to explore the topic further in our program.

Sources

Cancer Council SA: Sun protection policy review checklist for South Australian OSHC and vacation care services

Review

The policy will be reviewed annually by:

- Nominated Supervisor
- Educators
- Families
- Service Provider (Principal, OSHC Committee or Governing Council)

Last reviewed: February 2023 **Date for next review:** February 2024