



Sun Protection Policy

Longreach State High School

Rationale

Over-exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation in childhood is a major risk factor for developing skin cancer later in life. By teaching sensible sun protection habits from an early age and implementing best-practice sun protection measures, early childhood services can play a significant role toward reducing the life time risk of skin cancer.

Our sun protection policy has been developed to ensure that all children, employees and visitors attending our centre are protected from skin damage caused by harmful UV radiation from the sun.

Legislation

This policy relates to the following National Law, Regulations and Quality Areas:

- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2012: Regulation 113 Outdoor space natural environment; Regulation 114 Outdoor space shade; Regulation 168 Policies and procedures (2)(a)(ii)-sun protection
- National Quality Standards
 - All of these procedures link to Quality Area 2:
 - Links to Quality area 1: Educational program and practice; Quality area 3: Physical environment; Quality area 5: Relationships with children; Quality area 6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities; Quality area 7: Leadership and service management.

Procedures

Our service will ensure a combination of sun protection measures are applied to children and staff while outside when the UV Index is 3 or above.

Shade (Quality Area 2: Children's health and safety; Quality area 3: Physical environment)

- Management ensures there are sufficient shelters and trees providing shade in outdoor areas.
- Children will be actively encouraged to use shade for outdoor play activity.
- Outdoor activities will be planned to occur in shaded areas.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all outdoor activities.

Hats (Quality Area 2: Children's health and safety)

- All children will wear a wide brim, bucket or legionnaires style hat that protects the face, neck, ears and crown of the head whenever they are outside or on an excursion.
- Children without hats will remain protected from the sun.

Clothing (Quality Area 2: Children's health and safety)

- When outdoors, all children will wear sun protective clothing that protects as much of the skin as possible. Suitable clothing includes collars, elbow length sleeves and knee length or longer style shorts and skirts.
- Children without appropriate clothing will remain protected from the sun.

Sunscreen (**Quality Area 2: Children's health and safety**)

- All children and staff will apply SPF30 or higher broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors.
- Staff will ensure that sunscreen is reapplied to the children and themselves every two hours or more frequently if it is washed or wiped off.
- Sunscreen will be stored in a cool place, out of the sun.
- Staff will monitor the expiry date of sunscreen and discard when out of date.

Babies (**Quality Area 2: Children's health and safety**)

- Children under 12 months of age will not be exposed to direct sunlight, when the UV Index is 3 or above.

Role Modelling (**Quality Area 5: Relationships with children**)

- Staff, children, families and visitors will act as positive role models and demonstrate SunSmart behaviour when attending the service by:
 - wearing sun protective hats, clothing and sunglasses when outside
 - applying SPF30 or higher broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen
 - using and promoting shade

Education (**Quality Area 1: Educational program and practice; Quality Area 5: Relationships with children; Quality Area 6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities**)

- Sun protection is part of the learning program.
- Sun protection information will be promoted to staff, families and visitors.

Policy (**Quality area 7: Leadership and service management**)

- The SunSmart policy will be made available to staff, families and visitors.
- The policy is monitored and reviewed annually.

Due for review: **February, 2019**

