

North Ingle Sun Protection Policy



Policy Rationale

Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world. Research suggests severe sunburn is a contributor to skin cancer and other forms of skin damage. Most skin damage is therefore preventable. Research has also proven that wearing protective clothing (e.g. a hat) and use of sunscreen can significantly reduce the chance of skin cancer developing.

Taking effective skin protection measures to ensure that staff and children can work and play in a safe and secure environment can contribute to the reduction of cases of skin damage.

The purpose of this policy is to promote positive attitudes and effective behaviours that will protect staff and children from skin damage.

Hats

As recommended by the Cancer Council SA we are implementing sun protection in Terms 1, 3 and 4. All children and staff must wear a broad brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hat (bucket hat must have a deep crown and minimum 5cm brim for children under 5 years of age and 6 cm for adults.) Children who do not have/wear hats will need to play in areas where they are protected from the sun.



Clothing

The Cancer Council recommends that clothing should cover shoulders, arms and the back of the neck, therefore singlets, strappy tops and midriff tops are not acceptable.

Sunscreen

Parents will be encouraged to apply SPF 30+ broad spectrum to their children prior to attending preschool. Staff will supply sunscreen (Cancer Foundation recommended sunscreen) for the children to apply with staff support before outdoor activities. Written consent is needed for this to happen. In cases of specific sensitivities staff must be given the personal sunscreen for the child to apply, along with written permission.



Staff Responsibilities

- To act as role models by applying sunscreen and wearing sun safe hats and clothing
- support children to apply sunscreen before outdoor activities from September to April and when UVR levels are greater than 3
- where possible position outdoor activities in appropriately shaded areas
- include sun protection in the educational program
- promote sun protection to the community via newsletters and ensure all new staff and families are informed of the policy
- monitor the UV levels during May to August and take appropriate action



Parent Responsibilities

- become familiar with and support the site's Sun Protection policy by applying sunscreen to their children before commencing sessions
- give written consent for staff to supply sunscreen (or provide own sunscreen for their child if needed)
- supply an approved hat
- ensure sun safe clothing is worn by their children whilst at preschool



Hot Weather Strategies

If the temperature rises to 36C the hot weather policy for North Ingle School and Preschool is enforced and children will not be permitted to play outdoors.

If high temperatures are forecast for the day, outside play will only occur early in the day if the temperature has yet to reach 36C.



(This policy complements DECD guidelines and the North Ingle School Sun Protection policy)

Reviewed March 2017