

SUN PROTECTION POLICY

PURPOSE

This policy outlines:

- guidelines to ensure children, staff, and all others participating in Kinderlea programs and activities are well protected from overexposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun
- information for parents/guardians, staff, volunteers and children attending Kinderlea regarding sun protection

POLICY STATEMENT

1. VALUES

Kinderlea is committed to:

- promoting sun protection strategies for children, families, staff and visitors to minimise the harmful effects of over exposure to the sun's UV radiation
- ensuring that curriculum planning will minimise over exposure to the sun's UV radiation and promote an awareness of sun protection and sun safe strategies

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to educators, Committee of Management, and parents/guardians who wish to enrol or have already enrolled their child at Kinderlea.

3. DEFINITIONS

The terms defined in this section relate specifically to this policy.

Clothing for sun protection: Clothing that is loose-fitting, made from cool, densely woven fabric and covers as much skin as possible: tops with elbow-length sleeves and, if possible, collars and knee-length or longer shorts and skirts. Singlet tops and shoestring tops/dresses do not provide adequate protection in the sun.

Daily sun protection times: Times when it is estimated that the sun's UV radiation will be three or higher. Information about the daily sun protection times is available in the weather section of the daily newspaper, on the SunSmart website at: www.sunsmart.com.au, at myuv.com.au, as a free SunSmart app and as a free widget that can be added to websites.

Shade: An area sheltered from direct and indirect sun, such as a large tree, canopy, verandah or artificial cover. Shade can be built, natural or temporary and can reduce overall exposure to the sun's UV by 75%. When combined with appropriate clothing, hats and sunscreen, children can be well protected from UV over exposure when outdoors. Research shows that preschool environments with trees, shrubbery, and broken ground not only provides better sun protection in outdoor play but also triggers more physical activity.

Sunhat: A broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket-style hat that shades the face, neck and ears. Baseball caps and visors offer little protection to the cheeks, ears and neck, and are not recommended.

Sunglasses: Sunglasses are optional. If worn, it is recommended that glasses are a close fitting, wrap-around style that meet the Australian Standard 1067 (Sunglasses: Category 2, 3 or 4) and cover as much of the eye area as possible. Wearing a hat with a brim that shades the eyes can also reduce UV radiation to the eyes by 50%.

Sunscreen: SPF 30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen not passed the expiry date and stored in a cool, dry place.

4. SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES

Sources

- AS 4685.1: 2014 Playground equipment and surfacing – General safety requirements and test methods
- Safe Work Australia: [Guidance Note – Sun protection for outdoor workers](#) (2016)
- Cancer Council Australia: www.cancer.org.au/sunsmart
- SunSmart: www.sunsmart.com.au
- ARPANSA [Radiation Protection Standard for Occupational Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation](#) (2006)
- [Belonging, Being and Becoming – The Early Years Learning Framework](#) (July 2009)
- [Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework](#) (VEYLDF) (May 2016)
- DET [Building Quality Standards Handbook](#) (BQSH): Section 8.5.5 Shade Areas

Service policies

- *Staffing Policy*
- *Curriculum Policy*
- *Interaction with Children Policy*
- *Code of Conduct Policy*

RESPONSIBILITIES

All Educators supported by the Committee of Management Are Responsible for:

- ensuring parents/guardians are informed of the *Sun Protection Policy* on enrolment, including the need to provide an appropriate sunhat and clothing for sun protection (refer to *Definitions*) for their child when attending the service during (but not limited to) Term 1 and 4
- ensuring that this policy is in line with with current sun protection recommendations
- ensuring children wear appropriate sunhats, clothing for sun protection and sunscreen when attending the service during (but not limited to) Terms 1 and 4
- providing appropriate sunscreen (refer to definitions) for families to apply if required
- providing appropriate spare sunhats for children and adults if required
- ensuring there is adequate shade in the service grounds to protect children from over exposure to UV radiation
- ensuring that program planning includes the application of a combination of sun protection measures for outdoor activities during the times specified in the *Scope* of this policy
- ensuring that information on sun protection is incorporated into the educational program
- reinforcing this policy by providing information on sun protection (available on the SunSmart website) to service users via newsletters, noticeboards, meetings and websites etc.
- modelling Sun Protection behaviours

Parents/guardians are responsible for:

- providing a named, appropriate sunhat (refer to *Definitions*) for their child's use at the service
- applying sunscreen to their child before the commencement of each session during the times specified in the *Scope* of this policy
- providing written authority for staff to apply sunscreen to their child if at any time it is required
- wearing a sunhat, clothing for sun protection (refer to *Definitions*) and sunglasses (optional) when outside at the service, applying sunscreen and seeking shade during the times specified in the *Scope* of this policy.

Volunteers and students, while at the service, are responsible for following this policy and its procedures.

EVALUATION

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, all Educators supported by the Committee of Management will:

- regularly seek feedback from everyone affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
- monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy
- keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
- revise the policy and procedures as part of the service's policy review cycle, or as required
- notify parents/guardians at least 14 days before making any change to this policy or its procedures.

AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the Kinderlea Committee of Management on 4th December 2018

REVIEW DATE: JULY 2021