



### Written By

Narelle Myers

### Aim

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Research has indicated that young children and babies have sensitive skin that places them at particular risk of sunburn and skin damage. Exposure during the first 15 years of life can greatly increase the risk of developing skin cancer in later life. Early childhood services play a major role in minimising a child's UV exposure as children attend during times when UV radiation levels are highest.

### Goals

Our care and education service will follow best practice guidelines to protect children, family members educators and staff from the damaging effects of sun exposure.

### Strategies

Our sun protection strategies are as follows:

#### Outdoor Activities

The service will use a combination of sun protection measures whenever **UV Index levels reach 3 and above**. This will include:

- In term 1 and 4 sun protection is required at all times. Extra sun protection is needed between 11am and 3pm and during this period outdoor activities should be minimised. Minimising outdoor activities includes reducing both the number of times (frequency) and the length of time (duration) children are outside.
- In term 2 and 3 (excluding June and July) outdoor activity can take place at any time. However, from 10am–2pm sun protection is required.
- In June and July when the UV index is mostly below 3, sun protection is not required.
- All sun protection measures (including recommended outdoor times, shade, hat, clothing and sunscreen) will be considered when planning excursions and activities.

#### Shade

All outdoor activities will be planned to occur in shaded areas. Play activities will be set up in the shade and moved throughout the day to take advantage of shade patterns.

The service will provide and maintain adequate shade for outdoor play. Shade options can include a combination of portable, natural and built shade. Regular shade assessments should be conducted to monitor existing shade structures and assist in planning for additional shade.

#### Hats

Educators, staff and children are required to wear sun safe hats that protect their face, neck and ears. A sun safe hat is:

- Legionnaire hat.
- Bucket hat with a deep crown and brim size of at least 5cm (adults 6cm). Broad brimmed hat with a brim size of at least 6cm (adults 7.5cm).

*Please note: Baseball caps or visors do not provide enough sun protection and therefore are not recommended.*

Children without a sun safe hat will be asked to play in an area protected from the sun (e.g. under shade, veranda or indoors) or can be provided with a spare hat.

### Clothing

When outdoors, educators, staff and children will wear sun safe clothing that covers as much of the skin (especially the shoulders, back and stomach) as possible. This includes wearing:

- Loose fitting shirts and dresses with sleeves and collars or covered neckline.
  - Longer style skirts, shorts and trousers.
  - Children who are not wearing sun safe clothing can be provided with spare clothing.
- Please note: Midriff, crop or singlet tops do not provide enough sun protection and therefore are not recommended.*

### Sunscreen

All staff and children will apply SPF30+ broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapply every 2 hours. Sunscreen is stored in a cool, dry place and the use-by-date monitored.

### Babies

Babies under 12 months will not be exposed to direct sunlight and are to remain in dense shade when outside. They will wear sun safe hats and clothing and small amounts of SPF30+ broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen may be applied to their exposed skin.

### Role Modelling

Educators and staff will act as role models and demonstrate sun safe behaviour by:

- Wearing a sun safe hat (see Hats).
- Wearing sun safe clothing (see Clothing).
- Applying SPF30+ broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors.
- Using and promoting shade.
- Wearing sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard 1067 (optional).
- Families and visitors are encouraged to role model positive sun safe behaviour.

### Education and Information

Sun protection will be incorporated regularly into learning programs. Sun protection information will be promoted to all staff, families and visitors. Further information is available from the

When enrolling a child parents/guardians will be:

- Informed of the policy.
- Shirts and tops with sleeves and collars are encouraged.
- Parents are to sign a permission note at the time of enrolment to authorise the use of sunscreen. The parent has the right to provide sunscreen for the child if they prefer a different type due to allergies etc.

#### Relevant Legislation

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011  
Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010

#### Resources & References

Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010  
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011  
Being, Belonging and Becoming: The Early Years Framework for Australia (2009).  
National Health and Medical Research Council - [www.nhmrc.gov.au](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au)  
NSW Department of Health - [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au) Early Childhood  
Australia's Code of Ethics  
SunSmart Info Line Ph: 02 9334 1761 [sunsmartchildcare@nswcc.org.au](mailto:sunsmartchildcare@nswcc.org.au)  
[www.cancercouncil.com.au](http://www.cancercouncil.com.au)

**Relevant  
Documentation**

This policy is displayed in the Preschool and will be provided as part of Bermagui Preschool Induction Procedure.

**Date Adopted:**

October 2017

**Review Date:**

October 2020