



Written By

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Aim

Children need protective, comfortable and appropriate clothing and footwear to explore their environments. Clothing needs to protect children from injury and sun exposure while promoting self-help abilities. Appropriate footwear will fit a child's foot correctly and ensure comfort. Educators will also dress to prevent injury and sun exposure and will be encouraged to dress in a professional and respectful manner.

Goals

The Education and Care Service will:

- Develop and maintain a sun protection policy.
- Follow the *Guidelines set by Cancer Council Australia* to reduce UV exposure throughout the year.
- Encourage both educators and children to wear appropriate clothing for the weather conditions, work environment and social/cultural circumstances.
- Aim to ensure the comfort, protection, dignity and rights of children at all times of the day by recommending appropriate clothing and footwear guidelines.
- Provide information to families about suitable clothing for play experiences, sun protection and safety.
- Respect cultural differences and individual family and educator needs when recommending suitable clothing.

Strategies

The Approved Provider will:

- Ensure that a sun protection policy is developed and maintained.
- Ensure that educators are provided with personal protective equipment (e.g. gloves, goggles etc.) to facilitate cleaning and health protection measures.

The Nominated Supervisor will:

- Provide information for educators about suitable clothing and footwear expectations for the education and care work environment.
- Ensure educators are aware of the sun protection policy.
- Provide information for families about suitable clothing and footwear. This information will also be available at the education and care service using a variety of communication strategies including newsletters, brochures, websites and posters.

Strategies**Educators will:**

- Consult with families about the individual needs of children with respect to different values and beliefs associated with clothing and footwear.
- Monitor children's clothing and footwear to ensure compliance with the *Sun Protection Policy* and to support the safety, comfort and well-being of every child.
- Consider clothing and footwear needs associated with excursions or planned learning experiences and communicate clearly with families about the need for extraordinary protective clothing requirements.
- Provide protective clothing, such as aprons, for messy play experiences. Children will be encouraged by educators to wear protective clothing during messy and water play.
- Encourage children to remove shoes and heavy/excess layers of clothing during rest times and to reflect the room temperature, as recommended practice by SIDS and Kids.
- Encourage children to utilise their self help skills as appropriate to put on and remove clothing and shoes to meet their needs. For younger children, educators will use observation and monitoring skills to ensure children's clothing and footwear is appropriate for the environment and weather conditions.

Families will be encouraged to:

- Provide spare clothing in children's bags to allow for dirty or soiled clothing and changing weather conditions. Spare clothing will be available at the education and care service for emergency clothing needs.
- Dress children appropriately.

Evaluation

The need for protective, comfortable and appropriate clothing will be paramount within the education and care environment. The need to keep children safe and healthy by providing sun smart, weather conscience clothing and appropriate footwear for play is essential.

Relevant Legislation

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: 106, 168
National Quality Standards 2010: Elements 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.3, 4.2, 4.2.1, 5.2

Resources & References

The NSW Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and the NSW Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
Guide to the National Quality Standard (3) ACECQA (2011)
SIDS and Kids – www.sidsandkids.org
Cancer Council Australia - www.cancer.org.au
Health and Safety in Children's Centres: Model Policies and Practices (2nd ed.)
www.community.nsw.gov.au/docs/swr/_assets/main/documents/childcare_model_policies.pdf

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