

Sun Protection Policy

Purpose

All children have the right to experience quality care education in an environment which provides for their health and safety.

ECMS has a duty of care which extends to ensuring that appropriate sun protection policies and practices are implemented to adequately protect children, educators/staff and visitors from ultraviolet radiation from the sun.

The Cancer Council Australia advises that two out of three Australians will develop some form of skin cancer before the age of 70, with childhood sun exposure being an important risk factor. Infants and toddlers (up to 4 years of age) are particularly vulnerable to UV radiation-induced changes in the skin due to lower levels of melanin and a thinner stratum cornea, the outermost layer of skin. This means if a child gets too much sun, their skin can be permanently damaged resulting in moles, freckles, wrinkles, sunspots and even skin cancer later in life.

It is widely understood that the risk of developing skin cancer is directly related to the intensity and duration of sun exposure. Research now indicates that childhood sun exposure is an important contributing factor to the development of skin cancer later in life, with the majority of damage occurring in the first twenty years of life.

ECMS is committed to ensuring children are able to engage in safe outdoor play without the harmful effects of overexposure to the sun’s ultraviolet radiation whilst in a service and at any outdoor events organised by ECMS.

Scope

All ECMS staff, parents, students and volunteers.

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Policy Principles

- Ensure all children and educators have some UV exposure for vitamin D production
- Encourage all children and educators to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV Index levels reach 3 and above. Work towards a safe outdoor environment that provides shade for children and educators at appropriate times.
- Assist children to be responsible for their own sun protection.
- Ensure that families and new educators are informed of the service's SunSmart measures.
- Values and nurtures the uniqueness of each child; we will listen to children and include them in decision making.
- Responds to the specific needs of the children we serve; each child potentially involved will be considered when implementing the Sun Protection Policy.
- Provides access to resources and opportunities for learning; families will be provided with information that will inform their thinking and consideration in regards to SunSmart activities. Recognises that children are both vulnerable and capable; children will be taught to care for their own and others' health, safety and wellbeing
- Ensures the commitment to child health and safety is clear and shared by all.
- Educates staff, students, Family Day Care (FDC) educators and volunteers about child health and safety and the importance of children learning to assess potential hazards, identify and respond to risks.

Role and Responsibilities

	CEO	Is accountable for ensuring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All aspects of this policy and procedure are strictly adhered to at all times
	Area Managers	Are responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring the implementation of this policy and procedure • Providing feedback to review this policy and procedure
	Nominated Supervisors and Centre Directors	Are responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring all staff implement this policy and procedure • Parents are aware of the service's policy and procedure
	Employees, Volunteers, Contractor and Students	Are responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • working within the parameters of this policy and procedure at all times
	Parent/Guardians	Are responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reading and complying with this policy

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Sources and Further Reading

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 (amended version 2018) Regs- 77, 113,114 and 168

<http://www.SunSmart.com.au/communities/early-childhood-primary-schools/sample-policies>

<http://www.SunSmart.com.au/communities/early-childhood-primary-schools/resources-primary-early-childhood>

<http://www.SunSmart.com.au/downloads/communities/early-childhood-primary-school/resources/be-SunSmart-play-SunSmart.pdf>

<https://www.cancer.org.au/preventing-cancer/sun-protection/vitamin-d/>

<https://www.careforkids.com.au/child-care-articles/article/130/protecting-your-childs-skin-in-child-care>

[Guide to the National Quality Standard](#)

<http://www.acecqa.gov.au/links-and-resources/national-quality-framework-resources/>

Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005, Part 2: Principles for Children
Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment (Child Safe Standards) Act 2015 ,

AS/NZS 4486.1:1997 Playgrounds and Playground Equipment Part 1: Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation
Shade/Sun Protection (Appendix A)

<http://www.playaustralia.org.au>

Sun protection times (issued whenever the UV Index reaches 3 and above)
www.SunSmart.com.au or www.bom.gov.au/announcements/uv/

[SunSmart App can be downloaded at](#)
<http://www.SunSmart.com.au/tools/interactive-tools/free-SunSmart-app>

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Relevant Legislation

- Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Vic) (Part 2: Principles for children)
- Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment (Child Safe Standards) Act 2015
- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: (amended 1 October 2017 Section 167
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: (amended 1 July 2018) Regulations 77, 113,114,168 (2) (a) (ii)
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- National Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)
- Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF)
- Building Quality Standards Handbook (BQSH): Section 8.5.5 Shade Areas (Oct 2011)
- Get Up & Grow: Healthy eating and physical activity for early childhood (Section 2) 2009
- ARPANSA [Radiation Protection Standard for Occupational Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation](#) (2006)
- Safe Work Australia: [Guidance Note – Sun protection for outdoor workers](#) (2016)
- AS 4685.1: 2014 Playground equipment and surfacing – General safety requirements and test methods

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