

## 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 corneum, 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

This policy applies to:

- The Approved Provider, persons with management or control, Nominated Supervisor, and persons in day-to-day charge.
- Early Childhood teachers, educators, staff, contractors, students, volunteers, parents/guardians, children, and others enrolled and participating in ECMS programs and services, including during offsite excursions and activities.
- All ECMS-operated Early Learning Centres and Kindergarten programs.

## Policy Principles

ECMS is a not-for-profit organisation committed to providing accessible, affordable, and high-quality early childhood education. ECMS is committed to an anti-bias approach in early childhood. ECMS operates within a framework of social justice and equity - this means we celebrate family and cultural diversity and aim to be supportive, responsive, and inclusive of all children. ECMS will:

- Ensure all children and educators have some UV exposure for Vitamin D production
- Encourage 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, contractors and volunteers about child health and safety and the importance of children learning to assess potential hazards, identify and respond to risks.

## Roles & Responsibilities

Approved Provider/ Executive Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oversee policy governance, implementation and compliance.</li><li>• Ensure systems are in place to implement this policy consistently across all ECMS services.</li><li>• Provide resources, training, and support to services.</li></ul>
Area Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure, monitor and support implementation of the policy in the services they manage.</li><li>• Provide feedback to review this policy and procedure.</li></ul>
Centre Directors/ Nominated Supervisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure all staff implement this policy and procedure.</li><li>• Ensure parents/guardians are aware of the service's policy and procedure.</li></ul>
Educators, Students, Volunteers, Contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work within the parameters of this policy and procedure at all times.</li></ul>

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- Read and comply with this policy.

### Related Legislation, Regulations and Resources

- Education and Care Services National Law Act: Section 167
- Education and Care Services National Regulations: Reg. 77, 113, 114, and 168
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (Vic)
- Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019 (Vic)
- Child Safe Standards (Victoria) – Standard 2: Child Safety and Wellbeing
- National Quality Standard (NQS) – Quality Area 2: Children’s Health & Safety
- National Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)
- Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF)
- Building Quality Standards Handbook: Section 8.5.5 Shade Areas (Oct 2011)
- Care for Kids: [Protecting your child’s skin in child care](#) (2017)
- Get Up & Grow: Healthy eating and physical activity for early childhood (Section 2) 2009
- ACECQA - [Guide to National Quality Framework](#)
- ARPANSA [Radiation Protection Standard for Occupational Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation](#) (2006)
- Safe Work Australia: [Guidance Note – Sun protection for outdoor workers](#) (2016)
- SunSmart [SunSmart: Prevent skin cancer & sunburn this summer - SunSmart](#)
- Bureau of Meteorology [Learn and explore | The Bureau of Meteorology](#)
- AS 4685:0:2017 [Playground equipment and surfacing: Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation](#)
- AS 4685.1: 2021 [Playground equipment and surfacing – General safety requirements and test methods](#)

### Related Policies and Procedures

- Child Health and Hygiene Policy
- Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
- Code of Conduct
- Complaints and Feedback Policy
- Parent Involvement and Participation Policy
- Participation of Students and Volunteers Policy
- Privacy and Confidential Information Policy
- Risk Management Framework

Document Version History			
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