



WILMINGTON KINDERGARTEN

Skin Protection Policy

From our philosophy:

At Wilmington Kindergarten we aim to provide a safe and secure environment in which quality preschool education is provided through a partnership between children, families, staff, communities and the Department of Education and Child Development. We believe in the importance of our work with young children during a vital period of learning and development and work to support the development of communication and language, alongside physical, social and emotional capacities, in the knowledge that early childhood experiences have the power to shape positive futures.

The aim of the Wilmington Kindergarten sun protection policy is to promote skin protection and adequate Vitamin D intake amongst children, staff, parents and the wider community.

This policy is based on guidelines from the Cancer Council of South Australia. As part of our duty of care, we are required to implement policies to protect the skin of children and staff. Our sun protection policy includes procedures for the months of September to April and May to August to ensure that everyone involved in our service is protected from skin damage caused by the sun, while allowing sufficient exposure to Vitamin D for healthy bone development. In accordance with Cancer Council SA guidelines, our policy uses UV Level 3+ as the level at which sun protection is required.

The objectives of our policy include:

1. Avoiding play in the sun when the UV level is at 3+.
 - ❖ UV levels will be checked on www.bom.gov.au/weather/uv at the beginning of each session.
 - ❖ Activities in the sun will be programmed for times when the UV level is below 3. When the UV level is 3+ outdoor play will be held in shaded areas. Props and equipment will be moved under shade where possible.
 - ❖ Planning of excursions will be made with consideration to shade and sunsafe principles.
2. When using the outdoor area, we will make use of shaded areas.
 - ❖ Our centre will continue to expand and improve outdoor shade areas. Priority play areas will have their shade maximized.
3. Wear appropriate clothing which protects the skin.
 - ❖ Children, staff and their families will be expected to wear broad brimmed or legionnaire style hats when outdoors during the months of September to April and when the UV level is 3+. Hats do not need to be worn between May and August unless the UV level is 3+.
 - ❖ Children and staff will be expected to wear appropriate protective clothing at the centre. Children wearing sleeveless garments will be provided with a shirt to wear over their clothing during outside play.
 - ❖ We provide legionnaire style hats for children at our centre. All hats are labelled with the child's name. We also provide spare hats. These are stored in a labelled "hat box". They are washed periodically or as required.
 - ❖ Staff will role model hat wearing. Staff will provide their own appropriate clothing and broad brimmed hats.

- ❖ When children are enrolled parents are made aware of the Sun Protection Policy and its requirements.
 - ❖ Our centre will promote the Sun Smart message through newsletters and activities. Parents will also be encouraged to role model appropriate clothing.
4. The application of broad spectrum sunscreen before going outdoors.
- ❖ Our centre provides SPF 30+ broad spectrum sunscreen for use by all children and staff. Staff will reapply as required to exposed skin.
 - ❖ Parents are encouraged to apply sunscreen to their children before arriving at the centre. Parents are asked or reminded through posters, newsletters or flyers about this and staff request to be informed if sunscreen has not been applied that day.
 - ❖ When children are enrolled, a permission slip needs to be signed by the enrolling parent as to whether staff can apply sunscreen to their child.
 - ❖ Children with skin sensitivities will need to supply their own sunscreen.
 - ❖ Staff will ensure children have had sunscreen applied 20 minutes before going outdoors during the months of September and April and when the UV level is 3+. Sunscreen will need to be applied 2 hourly or prior to returning outdoors. Children will be taught to apply their own sunscreen, where possible, so as to avoid cross infection risks.
5. Staff will reinforce the Sun Smart message in all activities and procedures.
- ❖ Staff teach the Sun Smart message and role model sun protection behaviours in accordance with this policy.
 - ❖ Skin protection is incorporated into programming, enrolment procedures, parent communication, displays and excursions.
6. The Wilmington Kindergarten Sun Protection Policy will be evaluated on an ongoing basis:
- ❖ Policy issues will be discussed at staff meetings and Governing Council meetings.
 - ❖ Policy review will take place annually or as required.
 - ❖ Any policy review will include current information and reference materials from the Department of Education and Child Development and the Cancer Council of South Australia.

Signed:.....

Signed:.....

Director

Governing Council Chairperson

Referenced: Cancer Council of Australia

Ratified:

Reviewed: