

## Sun Protection Policy

### Policy Statement

***Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer.***

Infants and toddlers up to four years of age are particularly vulnerable to UV damage due to lower levels of melanin and a thinner stratum corneum (the outermost layer of skin). UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in life.

### Education and Care Services National Regulations

Chapter 4: Operational requirements

Part 4.2: Children's Health and Safety

Regulation 100: Risk Assessment must be conducted before excursion

Part 4.7: Governance and Leadership

Division 2: Policies and procedures

- Regulation 168: Education and care services must have policies and procedures
- Regulation 170: Policies and procedures to be followed

### National Quality Standards

Quality Area 1: Educational Program and Practice (1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.2.2)

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety (2.1.1, 2.2.1)

Quality Area 3: Physical Environment (3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.2.1)

Quality Area 4: Staffing Arrangements (4.2.1)

Quality Area 5 Relationships with Children (5.1.2, 5.2.1)

Quality Area 6: Collaborative Partnerships with families and communities (6.1.1, 6.1.3, 6.2.2)

Quality Area 7: Governance and Leadership (7.1.2)

### Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010

Section 167: Protection from harm and hazards

### Strategies and Practices

The sun protection measures listed below are used for all outdoor activities during the daily local sun protection times (issued whenever UV levels are 3 and above), typically from mid-August to the end of April in Victoria

- To assist with the implementation of this policy, educators and children are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times via the free SunSmart app or at [sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au).
- SunSmart practices consider the special needs of infants. All babies under 12 months are kept out of direct sun during the sun protection times (when UV levels

are three and above). Physical protection such as shade, clothing and broad-brimmed hats are the best sun protection measures. If babies are kept out of the sun or well protected from UV radiation by clothing, hats and shade, then sunscreen need only be used occasionally on very small areas of a baby's skin. The widespread use of sunscreen on babies under 6 months old is not recommended.

## **Healthy physical environment**

### **1. Seek shade** (QA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

- The availability of shade is considered when planning all outdoor activities.
- Children are encouraged to choose and use available areas of shade when outside.
- Children who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing are required to choose a shady play space or a suitable area protected from the sun.
- Educators will assess the shade to determine the current availability and quality of shade

## **Healthy social environment**

### **2. Slip on sun protective clothing** (QA 1, 2, 4, 5)

- Children are required to wear loose-fitting clothing that covers as much skin as possible. Clothing made from cool, densely woven fabric is recommended. Tops with elbow-length sleeves, and if possible, collars and knee-length or longer style shorts and skirts are best. Sleeveless shirts, dresses and singlets are not considered as appropriate clothing to protect children from the sun.

### **3. Slap on a hat** (QA 1, 2, 4, 5)

- **All** children and Educators are required to wear hats that protect their face, eyes, neck and ears (legionnaire, broad-brimmed or bucket style). Peak caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative. Due to the risk of children becoming entangled in hat cords and choking, hats with cords without safety snaps are not recommended.

### **4. Slop on sunscreen** (QA 1, 2, 4, 5)

- SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen is supplied by the service and/or families.
- Sunscreen is applied at least 20 minutes (where possible) before going outdoors and reapplied every TWO hours. Permission will be sought at enrolment from the family for the service to apply sunscreen.
- To help develop independent skills ready for school, children from 3 years of age are given opportunities and encouraged to apply their own sunscreen under supervision of staff.
- Although very rare, some children may present with an allergic reaction to sunscreen. In this situation, the service will stop applying the sunscreen, notify the family and request that a hypoallergenic sunscreen be supplied for the child to use.
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### **5. Slide on sunglasses [if practical]** (QA 1, 2, 4, 5)

- Where practical, children are encouraged to wear close fitting, wrap-around sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard 1067 (Sunglasses: Category 2, 3 or 4) and cover as

much of the eye area as possible. Sunglasses not labelled with Australian Standards codes are considered toys and do not provide sun protection.

## **Engaging children, educators, staff and families (QA 2, 3, 4, 3, 6, 7)**

Educators, staff and families are provided with information on sun protection and vitamin D through family newsletters, service handbook and the service's website.

When enrolling their child, families are:

- informed of the service's SunSmart policy
- asked to provide a suitable sun protective hat, covering clothing and sunscreen for their child
- required to give permission for educators to apply sunscreen to their child

As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, educators, staff and visitors:

- wear a suitable sun protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses
- apply sunscreen
- seek shade whenever possible

## **Sources and further reading**

- Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Vic) (Part 2 – Principles for children)
- Children's Services Regulations 2009
- Cancer Council Australia [www.cancercouncil.com.au](http://www.cancercouncil.com.au)
- Sun Smart Program [www.sunsmart.com.au](http://www.sunsmart.com.au)
- Safe Work Australia: Guidance Note – Sun protection for outdoor workers (2016)
- AS/NZS 1067.1:2016, Eye and face protection - Sunglasses and fashion spectacles
- AS/NZS 4399:2017, Sun protective clothing - Evaluation and classification
- AS/NZS 2604:2012 Sunscreen products - Evaluation and classification
- Australian Government Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA) – Australian regulatory guidelines for sunscreens: 4. Labelling and advertising – directions for use of the product
- AS/NZS 4685.0:2017, Playground equipment and surfacing - Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation. *6.2.1 General considerations, 6.3.9 Shade and sun protection, Appendix A Shade and sun protection*

Mornington Peninsula Shire acknowledges and pays respect to the elders, families and ancestors of the Bunurong/Boon Wurrung people, who have been the custodians of this land for many thousands of years. We acknowledge that the land on which we meet is the place of age-old ceremonies, celebrations, initiation and renewal; and that the Bunurong/Boon Wurrung peoples' living culture continues to have a unique role in the life of this region.