**Sun Protection Policy**

**Aim**

Our service recognises the importance of promoting awareness of skin cancer, sun protection, vitamin D and educating children to be responsible for their own sun protection. The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safety of children and educators in relation to exposure of ultraviolet radiation and to support duty of care and regulatory requirements.

**Legislative Requirements**

* *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*
* *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010*
* *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*

**Implementation**

Children and Educators use a combination of sun protection measures when Ultraviolet, (UV), levels are 3 and above to ensure they are well protected. Outdoor time is minimised as much as reasonably practicable between 11:00am and 3:00pm during the daylight saving and summer period when daily UV levels are at their peak.

Sun protection is considered when planning all outdoor experiences including excursions and special events.

Families are responsible for providing sun protective clothing and a sun protective hat for their child each day their child attends the service.

Sun protective clothing is included in the services dress code for both children and educators. This includes shirts with collars and sleeves and knee length dresses and shorts. Board shorts and t-shirts or “rashies” are required for water play and swimming excursions. Children who attend the service in singlets or short dresses/shorts will be required to change into sun protective clothing prior to outdoor play when UV levels are 3 and above.

Children are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outdoors. Children who do not have sun protective hats or clothing are provided with appropriate spare hats or clothing or required to remain indoors until the UV level is 3 or below.

The service ensures that outdoor areas are maintained with adequate shade, both natural and manufactured where appropriate. Particular attention to the provision of shade is given to areas where children congregate such as the sandpit and meal areas.

Educators and children wear sun protective hats outdoors between 1st August and 31st May as this is the time of the year in Canberra when UV levels are 3 and above for part of or most of every day. Sun protective hats are hats that protect the face, neck and ears, e.g. Legionnaire, broad-brimmed or bucket hats. During June & July, children and educators are permitted to wear a beanie, in lieu of a sun protective hat due to low (under 3) UV levels experienced in Canberra.

Children and educators are discouraged from the sharing of hats, although spare hats are available and regularly washed.

Children and educators are encouraged to wear close fitting wrap-around style sunglasses that meet AS 1067 but these are not compulsory. Glasses may be worn all year round.

Families authorise educators to provide sunscreen to their child at the service on initial enrolment.

Standard, Sun Protection Factor 30+ or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen is provided by the service and children are required to apply this to their exposed skin 15-20 minutes prior to outdoor play when UV levels are 3 and above. Educators support children to apply sunscreen appropriately. A wellness station is stocked with sunscreen, a mirror, spare clothing and hats, drinking water and access to an electronic device t for children to check the real time UV levels in the service.

Where a family does not want the services sunscreen to be applied to their child due to an allergy, intolerance or cultural preference, the family will provide the service with an appropriate alternative for use by their child. Sunscreen is reapplied every two hours or more often if washed or wiped off. Sunscreen is not used to extend time outdoors.

Educators monitor sunscreen expiry dates and advise the Responsible Person in charge if the services sunscreen levels are getting low.

Families are responsible for ensure their child has applied sunscreen to their child on arrival at the service, (if not already applied prior to arrival), and Before School Care and Vacation Care. Educators support children to reapply sunscreen as necessary throughout the day.

With guardian consent children with naturally very dark skin may not be required to apply sunscreen due to the high level of mil pigment in their skin. This will be advised by guardian in writing.

Educators act as role models for children and families by wearing sun protective hats, clothing and sunglasses (if possible), when necessary outdoors. Applying sunscreen to themselves with children and seeking shade wherever possible.

Families are also required to follow the services sun protection policy when participating in experiences at the service or attending excursions.

Educators recognise that occupational ultraviolet radiation exposure is a serious occupational health and safety hazard for any person who works part of or most of the day outdoors. The Approved Provider is aware of its occupational health and safety obligations, responsibilities and duties of care under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011.

SunSmart messages are incorporated into the services planned and spontaneous curriculum.

SunSmart attitudes are reinforced on initial enrolment, and as appropriate from there onwards through service communications, educator meetings, staff induction and family events etc.

Educator’s access, read and understand the daily UV Index Forecast at the Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology website, ([www.bom.gov.au/act/forecasts/canberra.shtml](http://www.bom.gov.au/act/forecasts/canberra.shtml)) to inform their daily sun protection practices.

**Sources**

* Community Child Care Co-Operative 2018, Sample Policies, viewed 13 October 2019, <https://www.cela.org.au/member-resources-2/>
* New South Wales Government, New South Wales Legislation 2018. *Education and Care Services National Regulations,* viewed 13October 2019, <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/regulation/2011/653/full>
* The Cancer Council-SunSmart 2018, *Early Childhood SunSmart Sample Policies*, viewed 15 October 2019, <http://www.sunsmart.com.au/communities/early-childhood-primary-schools/sample-policies>
* Victoria State Government, Victorian Legislation and Parliamentary Documents 2018, *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010,* viewed 15October 2019, <http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/domino/Web_Notes/LDMS/LTObject_Store/ltobjst10.nsf/DDE300B846EED9C7CA257616000A3571/D38DBD79C4A26CCECA2582270002C054/$FILE/10-69aa012%20authorised.pdf>

*Reviewed 2005, February 2008, with committee, staff and parent input, reviewed 2014 to align with the Forrest Primary School policy. Reviewed 2016, Reviewed 2018 by children families and Staff. Reviewed Jan 2020 by families, children and staff and ratified by the Forrest P & C Management Committee September 2020.*