



SUN PROTECTION POLICY

Mandatory – Quality Area 2

This policy was written in consultation with Cancer Council Victoria's SunSmart Program. The SunSmart Sample Sun Protection Policy was last updated in December 2011 and is incorporated into the ELAA policy. For more detailed information visit the SunSmart website: sunsmart.com.au

PURPOSE

This policy will provide:

- guidelines to ensure children, teaching staff, volunteers and others participating in Renown Kindergarten programs and activities maintain a healthy balance of ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure
- information for parents/guardians, teaching staff, volunteers and children attending Renown Kindergarten regarding a healthy balance of UV radiation exposure.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. VALUES

Renown Kindergarten is committed to:

- promoting sun protection strategies for children, families, staff and visitors to minimise the harmful effects of over exposure to UV radiation, while allowing some UV exposure for vitamin D requirements
- ensuring that curriculum planning will minimise exposure to the sun and also promote an awareness of sun protection and sun safe strategies
- providing information to children, teaching staff, volunteers, parents/guardians and others at the service about the harmful and beneficial effects of exposure to the sun's UV radiation.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Certified Supervisor, teaching staff, students on placement, volunteers, parents/guardians, children and others attending the programme and activities of Renown Kindergarten.

This policy will apply from the beginning of September until the end of April each year. During this period a combination of sun protection measures are to be used for all outdoor activities.

Sun protection may also be required at other times of the year when the UV Index level is at 3 or above. Information about the UV Index level is available on our website at www.renown.org.au under 'useful information' or in the weather section of the newspaper.

3. BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION Background

Balanced exposure to UV radiation is important for health. Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. Research suggests that young children and babies have sensitive skin and are therefore more vulnerable to sunburn and skin damage. Exposure to the sun in the first 15 years plays a major role in the risk of developing skin cancer in later life.

It is also important to have a healthy balance of UV radiation exposure. Too little UV from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. Vitamin D is necessary for the development and maintenance of healthy

bones and muscles, and for general health. Appropriate levels of sun exposure can vary from child to child. According to the SunSmart website, children with naturally very dark skin may not be required to wear sunscreen to help with vitamin D requirements. This should be discussed with parents/guardians prior to the child commencing at the service.

It is a requirement under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* that employers provide a healthy and safe environment for all persons who access the service's facilities and/or programs.

Legislation that governs the operation of approved children's services is based on the health, safety and welfare of the children and requires that children are protected from hazards and harm.

Legislation and standards

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005* (Vic) (Part 2: Principles for Children)
- *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010*: Section 167
- *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*: Regulations 114, 168(2)(a)(ii)
- *National Quality Standard*, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety
 - Standard 2.3: Each child is protected
 - Element 2.3.2: Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*

4. DEFINITIONS

The terms defined in this section relate specifically to this policy. For commonly used terms e.g. Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Regulatory Authority etc. refer to the *General Definitions* section of this manual.

Clothing for sun protection: Clothing that is loose-fitting, made from cool, densely woven fabric and covers as much skin as possible: tops with elbow-length sleeves and, if possible, collars and knee-length or longer-style shorts and skirts. Singlet tops and shoestring tops/dresses do not provide adequate protection in the sun.

Shade: An area sheltered from direct and indirect sun, such as a large tree, canopy or artificial cover. As recommended by Cancer Council Victoria, where possible, shade will provide a minimum of 94% protection against UV radiation.

Sunglasses: Sunglasses are optional. If worn, it is recommended that glasses are a close fitting, wrap-around style that meet the Australian Standard 1067 (Sunglasses: Category 2, 3 or 4) and cover as much of the eye area as possible.

Sunscreen: SPF 30+, broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen. Sunscreen should be reapplied every two hours, even when labelled 4 hours water resistance. Monitor the expiry date and store in a cool, dry place.

SunSmart: The name of the program conducted by Cancer Council Victoria to promote an awareness of the need to provide sun protection: www.sunsmart.com.au

Sunhat: To protect the neck, ears, temples, face and nose, SunSmart recommends broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket-style hats. Baseball caps and visors offer little protection to the cheeks, ears and neck, and are not recommended.

5. SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES Sources

- AS/NZS 4486.1:1997 – Playgrounds and Playground Equipment Part 1: Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation Shade/Sun Protection
- Australian Safety and Compensation Council (ASCC) 2008, *Guidance Note for the Protection of Workers from the Ultraviolet Radiation in Sunlight 2008*
- Cancer Council Australia: www.cancer.org.au/sunsmart

- *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010*
- *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*
- *National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety*
 - Standard 2.3: Each child is protected – Element 2.3.2: Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury
- SunSmart: www.sunsmart.com.au

Service policies

- *Excursions and Service Events Policy*
- *Nutrition and Active Play Policy*
- *Occupational Health and Safety Policy*
- *Supervision of Children Policy*

PROCEDURES

The Approved Provider is responsible for:

- maintaining membership of the SunSmart early childhood program
- ensuring that this policy is up to date with current SunSmart recommendations: www.sunsmart.com.au
- ensuring parents/guardians are informed about the *Sun Protection Policy* on enrolment, including the need to provide an appropriate sunhat and clothing for sun protection (refer to *Definitions*) for their child when attending the service
- providing a supply of sunscreen for use on all persons to whom this policy applies
- ensuring parents/guardians provide an authority for staff to apply sunscreen prior to their child commencing at the service (Attachment 1) and that this is stored with each child's enrolment record (refer to *General Definitions*)
- ensuring children wear appropriate sunhats, clothing for sun protection and sunscreen when attending the service
- providing appropriate spare sunhats (5 per class) for children and adults that will be laundered after each use
- ensuring there is adequate shade in the service grounds to protect children from overexposure to UV radiation (Regulation 114)
- ensuring that program planning includes the application of a combination of sun protection measures for outdoor activities during the times specified in the *Scope* of this policy
- ensuring that the availability of shade is considered in a risk assessment prior to conducting excursions and other outdoor events (Regulations 100, 101)
- ensuring that information on sun protection is incorporated into the educational program (refer to the SunSmart website)
- ensuring teaching staff, staff, children and other participants at the service wear sunhats, clothing for sun protection and sunglasses (optional) when outside, apply sunscreen and seek shade during the times specified in the *Scope* of this policy
- reinforcing this policy by providing information on sun protection (available on the SunSmart website) to service users via newsletters, noticeboards, meetings and websites etc. (see Attachments 2 and 3)

The Nominated Supervisor is responsible for:

- ensuring parents/guardians are informed of the *Sun Protection Policy* on enrolment, including the need to provide an appropriate sunhat and clothing for sun protection (refer to *Definitions*) for their child when attending the service

- obtaining a parent's/guardian's authority for staff to apply sunscreen prior to their child commencing at the service (Attachment 1) and storing this with each child's enrolment record (refer to *General Definitions*)
- ensuring program planning includes the application of a combination of sun protection measures for outdoor activities during the times specified in the *Scope* of this policy
- ensuring the SunSmart UV Alert on the SunSmart website is accessed to check the daily local sun protection times to assist with the implementation of this policy
- ensuring information on sun protection is incorporated into the educational program (refer to the SunSmart website)
- ensuring that the availability of shade is considered in a risk assessment prior to conducting excursions and other outdoor events (Regulations 100, 101).

Certified Supervisors and other teaching staff are responsible for:

- accessing the SunSmart UV Alert on the SunSmart website to check the daily local sun protection times to assist with the implementation of this policy
- wearing sunhats, clothing for sun protection (refer to *Definitions*) and sunglasses (optional) when outside, applying sunscreen and seeking shade during the times specified in the *Scope* of this policy
- ensuring each child, and any other participant at the service, wears an appropriate sunhat, clothing for sun protection and sunscreen for all outdoor activities during the times specified in the *Scope* of this policy
- checking that all sunhats brought to the service meet the SunSmart recommendation for adequate protection, are named and stored individually
- ensuring spare sunhats are laundered after each use
- applying sunscreen (refer to *Definitions*) to children's exposed skin – except in cases where parents/guardians have not given authority. Where possible this should be done 20 minutes before going outdoors. Children, where appropriate, will be encouraged to apply sunscreen with the assistance of teaching staff (sunscreen is to be reapplied as appropriate).
- storing sunscreen in a cool place and monitoring the expiry date – including for sunscreen supplied by parents/guardians
- ensuring that children without appropriate sunhats or clothing for sun protection play in the shade or in a suitable area protected from the sun
- encouraging children to seek shade when playing outside and utilise shaded areas for outdoor equipment that is not fixed during the times specified in the *Scope* of this policy
- encouraging children to wear sunhats when travelling to and from the service
- ensuring that sun protection strategies are a priority when planning excursions
- co-operating with their employer with respect to any action taken by the employer to comply with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*.

Parents/guardians are responsible for:

- providing a named, SunSmart approved sunhat (refer to *Definitions*) for their child's use at the service
- applying sunscreen to their child before the commencement of each session during the times specified in the *Scope* of this policy
- providing written authority for staff to apply sunscreen to their child. Parents/guardians of children with naturally very dark skin may decide not to provide this authority to ensure their child receives adequate levels of vitamin D (Attachment 1). This should also be discussed with teaching staff at the service
- providing, at their own expense, an alternative sunscreen to be left at the service if their child has a particular sensitivity to the sunscreen provided by the service
- wearing a sunhat, clothing for sun protection (refer to *Definitions*) and sunglasses (optional) when outside at the service, applying sunscreen and seeking shade during the times specified in the *Scope* of this policy.

Volunteers and students, while at the service, are responsible for following this policy and its procedures.

EVALUATION

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the Approved Provider will:

- regularly seek feedback from teaching staff, parents/guardians, children, management and all affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
- monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy
- keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
- revise the policy and procedures as part of the service's policy review cycle, or as required
- notify parents/guardians at least 14 days before making any change to this policy or its procedures

ATTACHMENTS

- **Attachment 1:** RENOWN KINDERGARTEN PERMISSION STATEMENTS

Attachment 2: Apply Sunscreen Poster

Attachment 3 UV Times Alert Poster

This policy was adopted by the Approved Provider of Renown Kindergarten on 14th February, 2017.

REVIEW DATE: 14th February, 2019



Renown Kindergarten Permission Statements

Child's Name: _____

Kindergarten Group: _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address _____

Head Lice Inspection

- ☐ I consent to my child being inspected for head lice.
- ☐ I do not consent to my child being inspected for head lice.

Sunscreen Application

- ☐ I consent to the application of SPF 30+ to my child as supplied by the kinder.
- ☐ I do not consent to the application of SPF 30+ to my child as supplied by the kinder

Alternatively

- ☐ I consent to the application of SPF 30+ to my child that I have labelled with my child's name and supplied to the kinder.

Information and Communication Technology

- ☐ I consent to my child being included in the ICT component of the kindergarten curriculum
- ☐ I do not consent to my child being included in the ICT component of the kindergarten curriculum
- ☐ I consent to my child being included in the Story Park Digital Portfolios component of the kindergarten curriculum

Email Correspondence

- ☐ I consent to the use of my email address for the purpose of correspondence from the kindergarten
- ☐ I do not consent to the use of my email address for the purpose of correspondence from the kindergarten

Grosvenor Street Childcare

Grosvenor Street Childcare is across the park adjacent to Renown; 2 members of staff can walk children over after kindergarten sessions. It is families' responsibility to organise care with the centre.

- ☐ I consent to my child being taken to Grosvenor Street Occasional Care when the kindergarten programme finishes.
- ☐ I do not consent to my child being taken to Grosvenor Street Occasional Care when the kindergarten programme finishes.

Photography and Video

I consent to the photography/video of my child for the purpose of:

- ☐ Teaching staff's documentation (displayed in classroom, used in programme journal etc)
 - ☐ Newsletter (internal- available to Renown kindergarten families and staff)
 - ☐ Advertising (internal- available to Renown kindergarten families and staff)
 - ☐ Fundraising (internal- available to Renown kindergarten families and staff)
 - ☐ For student placement requirements
 - ☐ Website (external- accessible to wider community)
 - ☐ Promotional material (external- accessible to wider community)
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- ☐ I understand that each year Renown employs a photographer to photograph my child both individually and as a class group.
 - ☐ I understand that I need to be sensitive towards others' privacy when photographing my child at Renown or at Renown related events. I also understand that I / we must not publish any photos of other children on social media or other web based forums.

By completing this form I understand that I am giving or not giving permission for each of the categories.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date _____

Applying sunscreen



For all outdoor play from September to the end of April

Check the SunSmart UV Alert's sun protection times at sunsmart.com.au and *Slip* on covering clothing, *Slap* on a wide brimmed hat, *Slop* on SPF 30+ or higher broad spectrum sunscreen, *Seek* shade and, if practical, *Slide* on some sunglasses (labelled AS 1067).



Sunscreen tips

- Try a pump pack or roll on (they are usually easier to use).
- Check the use by date.
- Have a mirror so children can see what they are doing.
- Have sunscreen buddies so children can help each other.
- Apply sunscreen to all parts of skin not covered by clothing.
- Try to apply 20 minutes before going outside.
- Reapply sunscreen every two hours.
- Store sunscreen in a cool place.



ATTACHMENT 2

<http://www.sunsmart.com.au/downloads/communities/early-childhood-primary-school/resources/applying-sunscreen-early-childhood-services.pdf>



Sid Seagull says,
"Be SunSmart today
between _____
and _____!"

Daily sun protection times (issued when the UV index is forecast to be 3 and above) can be found on the SunSmart app, online at SunSmart.com.au or in the Herald Sun.



<http://www.sunsmart.com.au/downloads/communities/early-childhood-primary-school/resources/sid-sun-protection-times-poster.pdf>