

Policy Statement

This policy acts to ensure that:

- All Educators and children attending our services wear appropriate and comfortable clothing and footwear

Explanation

Children need protective, comfortable and appropriate clothing and footwear to explore their environments. Clothing needs to protect children from injury and sun exposure while promoting self-help abilities. Appropriate footwear will fit a child's foot correctly and ensure comfort. Educators will also dress to prevent injury and sun exposure and will be encouraged to dress in a professional and respectful manner.

Roles and Responsibilities

Approved Provider/ Nominated Supervisor/Coordinator

- Ensure that a sun protection policy is developed and maintained
- Provide information for Educators about suitable clothing and footwear expectations for the education and care work environment
- Ensure Educators are aware of the sun protection policy
- Ensure that Educators are provided with, or have access to personal protective equipment to facilitate cleaning and health protection measures (e.g. gloves, goggles, aprons)
- Provide information for families about suitable clothing and footwear. This information will also be available at the education and care service using a variety of communication strategies including newsletters, brochures, websites and posters

Educators

- Wear clothing that is comfortable and practical, yet professional
- Wear shoes that are comfortable and do not inhibit movement. High heels and slip on shoes can restrict movement and become a safety hazard if an Educator needs to move quickly
- Be mindful of the pictures and slogans on shirts that they are not offensive to the children or families

Policy Created
February 2016

Policy Last Updated
May 2022

Policy Review Date
May 2024

- When wearing jewellery be mindful of the type that you are wearing – necklaces, large rings and dangly earrings can easily get caught or be pulled on by children
- Be aware of the services SunSmart Policy in relation to wearing suitable clothing for protection against the sun
- Ensure children are appropriately dressed for indoor and outdoor play, weather conditions, safe sleep and sun protection
- Encourage families to provide clothing for their child that is comfortable (as well as SunSmart) for the many varied activities that their child may engage in throughout the day
- Consult with families about the individual needs of children with respect to different values and beliefs associated with clothing and footwear
- Encourage families to provide safe and suitable footwear for their child, covered in shoes with good grip will ensure that children can run, climb and safely enjoy all outdoor activities
- Remove excess layers of clothing during rest times, and reflect on the room temperature when making these choices
- Encourage families to provide at least one set of spare clothes for their child each day, if the child is toilet training, more sets may be required
- Encourage families to refrain from sending their child to care wearing Jewellery, if the child does wear Jewellery encourage suitable items for the environment e.g. stud earrings
- Provide protective aprons such as aprons for messy play experiences
- Encourage children to make informed choices about the types of clothing they are wearing and if they are appropriate for the type of weather conditions

Families

- Be aware of the Services SunSmart Policy in relation to children wearing suitable clothing for protection against the sun
- Provide clothing for their child that is comfortable for the many varied activities that their child may engage in throughout the day. This may include clothing that can get dirty and clothing that does not inhibit their play such as dresses or long flowing skirts as the children will be participating in many hands-on play experiences, exploration and experimentation
- Provide a sun safe hat for their child to wear
- Provide safe and suitable footwear for their child, covered in shoes with good grip will ensure that children can run, climb and safely enjoy all outdoor activities. Thongs, crocs, Ugg Boots/slippers and gumboots can inhibit children's play. The use of gumboots may be necessary sometimes depending on specific curriculum experiences provided

→ Provide a spare set of clothes in their child's bag each day in case of weather changes or the child's clothes need changing

→ **What spare clothes to bring each day:**

Summer

Undies, socks

T-Shirt

Shorts

Jumper

Sun hat

Winter

Undies, singlet, socks

Long Sleeve T-Shirt

Pants/Tracksuit Pants

Jumper/Jacket

Sun hat/Beanie

→ Babies will generally need 2-3 spare sets of clothing each day

→ If their child is toilet training, it is ideal to send in 2-3 spare sets of clothes and a spare pair of shoes each day

→ While we do discourage children from wearing jewellery to care, if your child does wear jewellery – such as earrings please be mindful of the environment they are in and wear earrings such as studs that are unlikely to get caught on things or pulled by other children

Continual Monitoring and Improvement

Continual improvement and monitoring will occur in the following ways:

→ Incidental and planned consultation with families

→ Approved Provider and Coordinators accessing current relevant information

→ Approved Provider, Coordinators and Educators accessing current and relevant training

→ Internal evaluation of incidences and the improvement of systems

LINKS TO:

→ **Education & Care
Services National Law**
Section 167

→ **Education & Care
Services National
Regulations**
168, 169, 170, 171

→ **National Quality
Standards/Elements:**
2.1.1, 5.1, 5.2

→ **Child Safe Standards**
1, 2, 3,4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

SOURCES

- Education and Care Services National Regulations - December 2021
- Education and Care Services National Law - January 2022
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations - October 2017
- Guide to the National Quality Standard - January 2020
- Implementing the Child Safe Standards: A Guide for Early Education and Outside School Hours Care Services, NSW Department of Education, 2021
- A Guide to the Child Safe Standards, NSW Office of the Children's Guardian, 2020
- ACECQA – FDC Approved Provider compliance responsibilities – October 2017
- Be You
- My Time Our Place: Framework for School Age Care in Australia
- ECA Code of Ethics
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- RedNose
- Sunsmart
- Cancer Council Australia
- Podiatry Care
- Raising Children Network

LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES:

- Acceptance & Refusal of Authorisations
- Administration of First Aid
- Administration of Medication
- Child-Safe Environment
- SunSmart