

## 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.

## Goals

- Develop and maintain a Sunsmart Policy
- Follow the guidelines set by Cancer Council NSW to reduce UV exposure throughout the year
- Encourage both Educators and children to wear appropriate clothing for the weather conditions, work/play environment and social/cultural circumstances
- Aim to ensure the comfort, protection, dignity and rights of children at all times of the day by recommending appropriate clothing and footwear guidelines
- Provide information to families about suitable clothing for play experiences, sun protection and safety
- Respect cultural difference and individual family and Educator needs when recommending suitable clothing

## 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

**Policy Created**  
February 2016

**Policy Last Updated**  
November 2023

**Policy Review Date**  
November 2025

- 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
- 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
- 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
- Monitor children's clothing and footwear to ensure compliance with the Sunsmart policy and to support the safety, comfort and well-being of every child
- 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
- Encourage children to 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
- Encourage children to use their self-help skills as appropriate to put on and remove clothing and shoes

## 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
- Be mindful of the pictures and slogans on shirts and hats that they are not offensive to the other children or families using the service
- 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

### LINKS TO:

- Education & Care Services National Law Section 167
- Education & Care Services National Regulations 106, 168, 169, 170, 171
- National Quality Standards/Elements: 2.1, 2.1.1, 2.2, 4.2, 4.2.2, 5.1.2
- Child Safe Standards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

## 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

### SOURCES

- Education and Care Services National Regulations
- Education and Care Services National Law
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations
- Guide to the National Quality Standard
- 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