

Inclement weather and sun protection Policy

Chandlers Hill Kindergarten

Rationale

We believe that too much of the sun's UV radiation can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Sun exposure in the first ten years of life is a major factor in determining future cancer risk. Too little UV radiation from the sun can lead to low levels of vitamin D which is essential for healthy bones and muscles and for general health.

At Chandlers Hill Kindergarten our aim is to develop an awareness of safe Sunsmart practices for children, families, and the community.

Chandlers Hill is situated at the bottom of the hills and is close to many local reserves and the Happy Valley Reservoir and we have large trees in our outdoor learning environment. We spend a high proportion of time outside in these environments therefore we need a procedure in place to keep children, families and the community safe when there is inclement weather conditions in place e.g. extreme weather warnings.

Using sun protection

The Kindergarten uses a combination of sun protection measures for all outdoor activities on and off site across the year wherever the UV index reaches 3 or above during particularly in terms 1 and 4. Educators will role model sun smart behaviours with applying their own sun cream, wearing hats and appropriate clothing.

Clothing

Parents/caregivers are encouraged to dress their children in clothing that protects their child's shoulders for outdoor play. We sell kindergarten t-shirts that cover the shoulders and tops of the arms and have high neck lines to protect their chest.

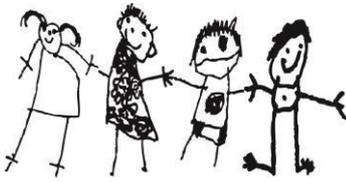
Sunscreen

Educators will:

- Write the UV rating on the whiteboard to communicate to families what is required of them on arrival
- check the UV rating across the day utilising the Sunsmart App apply sun cream and apply sun cream after relaxation time. Children will stay inside for 20 minutes before going outdoors and educators will reapply every two hours if required.
- Educators will work closely with children to apply sun cream utilising mirrors to look and check so they can work towards doing this independently.

Families will:

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- Check in with their GP or pediatrician if they have a child/ren with naturally very dark skin to discuss their vitamin D requirements
- Apply sun cream of SPF 30 or higher prior to arrival or apply at the Kindergarten when they arrive.
- Provide the Kindergarten with sun cream should their child have an allergy and fill in required paperwork(see managing medical conditions)

Hats

All children and educators are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears e.g. legionnaire, broad brimmed or bucket hats whenever the UV is 3 and above. Baseball or peak caps are not acceptable.

As part of the enrolment process each child will be supplied a sun safe bucket hat which is included as part of term 1 fees (this stays at kindy, is named and in individually named hat pockets. These are washed every term). The Kindergarten has sun safe spare hats on site, alternatively children will need to play inside or under the verandah if they do not have a hat.

Curriculum

Programs on skin cancer prevention are included in the curriculum in the Kindergarten. Sun Smart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole community through our Seesaw app, educator meetings, student, and teacher activities and in enrolment packs. Families will be reminded that if the UV is going to be 3 or above their child needs to have sunscreen applied prior to Kindy. Pamphlets will be provided in our community area for families to read and access.

Shade

Care is taken during the peak UV radiation times, and outdoor activities are scheduled outside of these times or in the shade where possible. Outdoor events to be held during term two or earlier in the day where practical. Children are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.

Children who do not have appropriate hats or clothing are asked to stay in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun

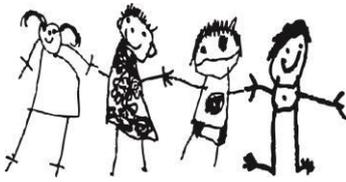
Educators will:

- Set up learning where possible in shaded places outside. In the afternoon equipment will be packed up that is in full sun light.
- Children will encourage children to play in the shade – under the shade structures & in shaded areas of the garden.
- Should the weather be too hot, children will play inside during the afternoon heat based on checking the BOM app.

Inclement weather conditions

At Chandlers Hill Kindergarten when playing outdoors and talking children on local walks **educators will:**

- Check the BOM app for weather warnings especially high winds. Should an extreme weather warning be in place, educators will not take children outside to play or go for local walks. Educators



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to also do a visual check on the weather and come inside should they notice a sudden change in the weather conditions.

- Check the CFS website in terms one and four for bush fire ratings. The site will be closed should there be a catastrophic rating. The ratings will be displayed to families on the whiteboard.
- Bring the children inside when the weather is too hot in the afternoon and utilise the undercover space and inside instead

The Director will:

- Make sure the Emergency management plan (EMP) is up to date and that educators are refreshed in the plan each year especially before term 1 and 4 commence.
- Work with the Department in the lead up to bush fire danger season to make sure that the site's EMP is up to date
- Have annual inspections of the trees by an arborist (as organized by preventative maintenance)
- Make sure the site has an emergency invacuation/evacuation per term per group practicing a range of different scenarios

Approved by Educators and the Governing Council August 2022

To be reviewed 2025

Governing Council Chairperson: Karla Brown

Kindergarten Director: Rachel Douglass

R168(2)(a)(ii) Sun Protection

National Quality Standards 2.3

