

Woodend Children's Centre

Sun protection in schools and early childhood education services

Purpose

All department school sites and early childhood education and care services must have a sun protection policy in effect for school terms 1, 3 and 4 and whenever ultra violet (UV) radiation levels reach 3 or above. Sites must inform the school community including employees, students, parents and volunteers of the sun protection policy. Children and young people are encouraged to be responsible for their own sun protection.

Using Sun Protection

Woodend Children's Centre uses a combination of sun protection measures for all outdoor activities on and off site throughout the school year when the **UV is 3 and above** as per the SunSmart App and UV Index widget

Clothing

Sun protective clothing is included in the parent information booklet ensuring that children attend sessions in weather responsive clothing. Cool, loose fitting clothing made of closely woven fabric is recommended to protect from both UV and heat. This includes shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts.

Sunscreen

Is to be applied by families PRIOR to sessions commencing. The site supplies SPF 30 spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for staff and students' use Children with known sensitivities are provide their own SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen

Sunscreen is applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours if remaining outdoors.

Our lunch time routine ensures that all children have sunscreen re-applied as they finish eating daily at 12:30pm when **UV is 3 and above**. Verbal cues are given to support the correct application of sunscreen to the face, neck and limbs front and back of the body.

Families with children who have naturally very dark skin are encouraged to discuss their vitamin D requirements with their GP or pediatrician.

Hats

All students and staff are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears e.g. legionnaire, broad brimmed or bucket hats, when the **UV is 3 and above** when in the outdoor learning environment. **Baseball or peak caps are not acceptable** for children or staff. Our centre provides all enrolled children with their own hat which is named, stored and cleaned regularly on site.

*drawstrings on hats are recognized as possible entrapments and are removed to ensure children's safety as per the DECD Hazard Alert HA39 (refer to PDF attached in supporting information).

Shade

Care is taken during the peak UV radiation times (UV 3-5), outdoor activities are scheduled under the verandah or under shade. As a guide from Cancer Council SA, peak UV times of the day are: 11am-3pm during daylight savings and 10am-2pm during non-daylight savings.

Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.

Outdoor mealtimes are to take place under the shade of a tree or permanent shade structure.

Children who do not have appropriate hats or clothing will be provided alternatives from the site's spare hat and clothing supply. Children who do not keep their hats on will be asked to stay in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.

Curriculum

Programs on skin cancer prevention are included in the curriculum for all year levels.

Sun Smart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the preschool community through newsletters, staff meetings, intentional teaching and interactions with children and families and in the parent information booklet.

Families and visitors are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures when participating in or attending outdoor activities.

This information has been extracted from the [Cancer Council SA SunSmart policy](#)

Supporting Information

[DECD Hazard Alert HA39 | Drawstrings toggle entrapment \(edi.sa.edu.au\)](#)

[Sun safety | Cancer Information | Causes and prevention \(cancer.org.au\)](#)

Approvals

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Approved by: Katie Dix | Governing Council, Woodend Children's Centre

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29/1/24	Addition made to include program provision of hats as of 2024	Carrie
25/9/23	Minor adjustments made in line with recommendations from Cancer Council SA application for membership	Carrie Mitton Fiona Morton
26/6/23	Tabled for approval with GC	Approved Katie Dix
Draft 1/5/23	Reviewed and updated	Carrie Mitton (director)