

# Sun Protection Policy

- Newland Park Kindergarten -

## Rationale

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Too much ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun can cause sunburn, skin damage, eye damage and skin cancer. Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world, with two in three Australians developing some form of skin cancer during their lifetime. Overexposure to the sun during childhood and adolescence is known to be a major cause of skin cancer.

In accordance with the DECD Inclement Weather & Sun Protection Procedure and to comply with Sun Smart Guidelines, our Sun Protection must be in effect during school terms 1, 3 and 4 (August until the end of April) and whenever the UV radiation levels reach 3 or above at other times. Due to concerns about lack of Vitamin D children will not have sunscreen applied when levels are under the UV radiation level of 3.

## Aim

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Newland Park Kindergarten's Sun Protection Policy has been developed to ensure that all children and staff are protected from damaging levels of UV radiation from the sun. Staff are expected to act as positive role models by routinely practising Sun Smart behaviours.

**Sun Protection Strategies:** *This policy applies to all centre events on-site and off-site.*

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- All children and staff use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV radiation levels reach 3 and above. The sun protection times are forecast each day by the Bureau of Meteorology. Times can be found on the Sun Smart App for mobile phones.
- Age appropriate information on skin protection is included in children's programming.
- Sun Smart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole community and all new families and staff are informed of the policy.

## Managing the Physical Environment - Shade

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### **Shade:**

There are sufficient number of shelters and trees providing shade in the Kindy grounds. The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and outdoor activities. Children are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside. Children who do not have appropriate outdoor clothing are asked to play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.

### **Clothing**

When outside, children and staff are encouraged to wear loose fitting clothing that covers as much skin as possible. Tops with elbow length sleeves, and if possible, collars and knee length or longer style shorts are best. No singlet or midriff tops are allowed.

### **Hats**

Children and staff must wear a broad brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hat that protects their face, neck and ears. (Please note: Baseball caps do not offer enough protection and are not acceptable.) Children who do not have appropriate hats with them are asked to play in an area protected from the sun.

### **Sunscreen**

The Kindy encourages parents to apply a broad-spectrum sunscreen with a SPF of at least 30+ to clean, dry skin, 20 minutes before going outdoors, on arrival or before arrival. Sunscreen is available to be reapplied after lunch.

### **Review**

Staff monitor and review the effectiveness of the sun protection policy every three years and revise the policy when required.

## Sources / Further Reading

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- Cancer Council of SA Sun Smart policies & supporting information for Early Childhood Education and Care Services
- Children's Services Act 1996, Section 26: Protection of children from hazards
- Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005, Part 2: Principles for Children
- AS/NZS 4486.1:1997 – Playgrounds and Playground Equipment Part 1: Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation Shade/Sun Protection (Appendix A)
- Department of Human Services: Children's Services Guidelines:  
[www.office-for-children.vic.gov.au](http://www.office-for-children.vic.gov.au) > Outdoor play guide for Victorian children's services > The landscape > Sun protection
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 - Sections 21 and 23: Main Duties of Employers & Section 25: Duties of Employees
- [www.worksafe.vic.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au) > Laws and Regulations > Acts and Regulations
- SunSmart UV Alert (issued whenever the UV Index reaches 3 and above)
- [www.sunsmart.com.au](http://www.sunsmart.com.au) or [www.bom.gov.au/announcements/uv/](http://www.bom.gov.au/announcements/uv/)