



Inclement Weather Policy

National Quality Standards 2.2 Regulation 168 (2) (a) (ii)

Related Key Regulations: 114

At Newland Park Kindergarten staff work with children and families to ensure everyone's safety and wellbeing in situations of inclement weather. For further information please refer to the Department for Education Inclement Weather & Sun Protection Procedure.

Inclement weather includes:

- extreme temperatures
- heavy rain, hail and snow
- strong winds
- severe dust storm
- lightning or thunderstorm.

Gum trees pose safety risk in Inclement weather due to potential falling limbs. Tree audit to be conducted annually by Burnside City Council.

Health Risks

Performing activities in inclement weather conditions can cause significant risks to the health and safety of individuals. These include:

- illness such as hyperthermia (heat stress, heat stroke, sunstroke) or hypothermia (low body temperature)
- aggravation of pre-existing medical and physical illnesses
- increased risk of accidents as a result of the inability to concentrate
- fatality.

Parents/guardians and caregivers may wish to collect children early on days of extreme weather. The Kindy has effective air conditioning systems and overhead fans and will remain open for normal operating hours. Staff will monitor BOM for weather warnings and the program will be run in the inside environment in inclement weather. Staff will follow Department recommendations to avoid sitting under trees for prolonged periods in hot weather, hot weather followed by heavy rain or days with high winds.

Extreme Heat

The risk of heat related illness is greater when performing activities in hot, dry weather. The body produces more heat and may not be able to produce enough sweat to evaporate for the body to cool. It is easy to become dehydrated and for the body to become overheated. Individuals will start to feel ill and experience heat cramps, heat exhaustion or heat stroke which is an immediate medical emergency.



Staff recognise the importance of helping children to regulate their behaviours in extreme heat and will work with children and families to develop appropriate responses when the weather reaches the mid 30's. This Centre has adequate air-conditioning, covered verandahs and excellent shade to provide safe play areas.

In addition:

- all employees take reasonable care to protect their own health and safety and that of others in the workplace
- activities conducted in periods of hot weather are to be undertaken in shaded areas
- children are to be frequently offered water
- drinking water is to be accessible to children at all times
- parents are to be encouraged to dress children in clothing that minimises heat gain, in layers that can be easily removed during activity and of a type that is sun safe.

Refer: www.arpansa.gov.au/radiationprotection/factsheets/is_UVProtection.efm

Lunches are stored inside in a trolley. We ask that families send food in an insulated container with an ice pack in warm weather. We use and inform parents of the 2-4 hour food safety rule. After 4 hours in uncontrolled temperature food needs to be disposed of. Lunch boxes are uncontrolled therefore food cannot be kept after 4 hours. Parents are asked to send limited perishable items and know that after lunch perishable items will be disposed of.

Our kindy is a Sun Smart Centre and follows the recommendation of the Cancer Council of SA; www.cancersa.org.au/asp/sunsmart.aspx.

Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiations B (UVB)

The danger period of exposure to UVB is between 10.00am and 2.00pm (11.00am and 3.00pm during daylight saving) from November to March. UVB levels are higher during summer than winter months however damage can occur outside these hours but may take longer. Due to the cumulative effect of UVB exposure, adequate skin protection should be considered as a year round issue, as required. (See separate Sun Protection Policy.)

Exposure to Extreme Cold and Wet Weather Conditions

Exposure to extreme cold and wet weather conditions while performing activities outdoors can result in body limbs becoming cold, stiff, numb and painful resulting in the loss of muscle/tissue mobility and manual dexterity. Extreme cold weather can cause muscle strain injuries and also aggravate a number of conditions such as arthritis, rheumatism and bronchitis.

Management Process

Risk Identification

Director must ensure they are familiar with all locations and situations under their management and control where injuries or illnesses to individuals are anticipated as a result of performing activities in inclement weather conditions. This may include checking expected weather bulletin for maximum day time temperatures, UV forecasts and catastrophic bushfire warnings as well as undertaking general observations at the time. The following are some of the factors to be considered:



- the nature/type of the task, activity or service to be performed
- the length of time a worker/s may be performing the task, activity or service
- the time of day when a worker/s may be performing the task, activity or service
- the individual competencies of a worker/s
- work location
- availability and accessibility to communication
- hazardous manual tasks
- environmental factors
- falling objects eg. tree branches
- workers and/or others who are at greater risk of suffering an injury or illness while performing tasks, activities and/or services in inclement weather conditions'

Risk Assessment

Where a risk has been identified, a risk assessment will determine the likelihood of a risk occurring and the potential consequences. These combined likelihood and consequence ratings will determine a level of risk e.g. low, medium, high, extreme. This will assist in the identification of the appropriate control measures to be implemented. Refer to Inclement Weather Risk Assessment Form.

Risk Control

The director must consult with affected Department for Education workers on appropriate risk control measures for mitigating risks associated with working in inclement weather (for example elimination/substitution strategies, engineering strategies, administrative strategies including Personal Protective Equipment).

Staff are to wear appropriate clothing and footwear suitable for the activity and the type of inclement weather conditions that are present.

Staff are to inform the site manager of any changes in weather conditions while performing activities outdoors to ensure that appropriate risk controls can be implemented, reviewed and monitored throughout the activity.

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Sources and References

Cancer Council SA – SunSmart Early Childhood Program

<https://www.cancer.org.au/cancer-information/causes-and-prevention/sun-safety/be-sunsmart/sunsmart-in-schools>

Early Childhood Education and Care – National Quality Standards

www.deewr.gov.au/EarlyChildhood/Policy-Agenda/Quality/Pages/QualityStandards.aspx

Bushfires Strategy

www.crisis.sa.edu.au/pages/welcome/bushfires/



Department for Education

[Inclement weather \(edi.sa.edu.au\)](https://www.edi.sa.edu.au)

[Selecting and maintaining trees \(edi.sa.edu.au\)](https://www.edi.sa.edu.au)

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