**SunSmart Policy**

**Policy Aims**

* ensure all children, educators and staff are protected from over-exposure to UV radiation
* ensure the outdoor environment provides shade for children, educators and staff
* ensure children are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills
* support duty of care and regulatory requirements; and
* support appropriate OHS strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harms for educators, staff and visitors.

**Background**Too much of the sun’s UV radiation can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer.Infants and toddlers up to four years of age are particularly vulnerable to UV damage due to lower levels of melanin and a thinner stratum corneum (the outermost layer of skin). UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in life.

**Policy and procedures**

**1. Seek shade**

Management makes sure there is a sufficient number of shelters and trees providing shade in the outdoor area particularly in high-use areas. The availability of shade is considered when planning all outdoor activities. Children are encouraged to choose and use available areas of shade when outside.

Children who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing are asked to choose a shady play space or a suitable area protected from the sun. Shade provision is considered in future plans and upgrades.

1. **Wear a hat**

All children are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears (ideally legionnaire, broad-brimmed or bucket style).

1. **Wear sun cream**

SPF30 (or higher), broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen is supplied by the families. We request that children arrive at school having already applied sun cream.

Children are reminded to apply sun cream before break and lunchtime.

To help develop independent skills ready for school, children from three years of age are given opportunities to apply their own sunscreen under supervision of staff, and are encouraged to do so.

When enrolling their child(ren), families are:

* informed of the service’s SunSmart policy
* asked to provide a suitable sun protective hat and sunscreen for their child
* required to give permission for educators to apply sunscreen to their child

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As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, staff will:

* wear a suitable sun-protective hat and, if practical, sunglasses;
* apply sunscreen; and seek shade whenever possible