

SUN PROTECTION POLICY

Policy Number: SP100-19 (R2021)

Rationale

At Loxton North School we believe that all children and staff have a right to a safe and secure environment. Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world and one out of every two people develops some form of skin cancer in their lifetime. Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Much of the damage occurs during childhood and adolescence. Research suggests that severe sunburn is a contributor to skin cancer and other forms of skin damage such as wrinkles, sunspots, blemishes and premature ageing. Most skin damage is therefore, preventable.

Aims

- To promote positive attitudes toward skin protection.
- To ensure that all children attending our preschool are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun.
- To raise awareness of the potential damage that exposure to the sun can cause, in particular between 10 am to 3.00 pm.
- To encourage personal responsibility for skin protection.

Skin Protection Strategies

- The wearing of a named hat outdoors will be compulsory. All children are required to have a hat in their bag every day – NO HAT, NO PLAY.
- Parents will be encouraged to provide hats that satisfy the Cancer Council of SA guidelines so as to shade the face, back of the neck and ears. Examples are broad brimmed, legionnaire or bucket style hat with a minimum of 5cm brim (a recommendation by the Cancer Council SA).
- If children do not have the appropriate hat, they are required to play indoors. In the event that children must go outdoors as part of the curriculum a loan hat will be provided to them.
- A supply of SPF 30+ broad spectrum water-resistant sunscreen will be kept at the preschool for use when required and be readily available for parents and caregivers to use with their children.

Staff

- Staff will act as role models by wearing protective hats and appropriate clothing. This behaviour will be modelled both at the preschool and on excursions.
- Staff will seek shade whenever possible during outdoor activities.
- Staff will include information about the importance of skin protection in the educational program for the children.
- Staff will ensure all children effectively apply SPF 30+ broad spectrum water-resistant sunscreen provided by the preschool before playing outdoors in the afternoon in terms one and four or if the UV index is forecast to be moderate or above.
- Staff will inform the parent community of aspects of skin protection.

Children

If playing outdoors in the afternoon in terms one and four or if the UV index is forecast to be moderate or above sunscreen will be reapplied at lunchtime with support of the staff team.

Parents and Caregivers

- Provide a hat that provides good protection to the face, ears and neck such as a broad brimmed, bucket hat with at least a 5cm brim or legionnaire style of hat for their child, every day.
- Clothe their child in protective clothing – shirts and tops with collars and sleeves are best. Singlets, tank tops, shoe-string tops or tops with exposed midriff are not acceptable. Longer style shorts and skirts are encouraged.
- Apply a broad spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen with an SPF of 30+ to clean, dry skin, 15- 20 minutes before coming to preschool (in the event that this is forgotten, parents may use sunscreen provided at the preschool located on top of the lockers next to the sign-in sheet).
- Inform staff if children are allergic to sunscreen cream.

Site Leaders

Make shade provision a priority in the preschool's forward planning i.e. plant shade trees and cover play areas and sandpit with suitable structures.

Encourage staff and parents to role model good "Sun Smart" behaviour.

This policy will be shared with all new staff and families, and available on the website and in the preschool policies folder.

Policy Issued: October 2019

Policy Review Date: October 2021

