

# Sun Protection Policy

## PURPOSE

This SunSmart Policy has been developed to:

- Ensure all children and staff have some UV exposure for vitamin D.
- Encourage children and staff to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV Index levels reach 3 and above.
- Work towards a safe outdoor environment that provides shade for children and staff at appropriate times.
- Assist children to be responsible for their own sun protection.
- Ensure that families and new staff are informed of the service's SunSmart measures.

## POLICY STATEMENT

### 1. VALUES

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This Centre is committed to ensuring protection of harmful effects from exposure to the sun and ultraviolet radiation during all aspects of the program and at any events organised by the Pre-School.

The Pre-School believes in care and education regarding the positive and harmful effects of the sun's ultraviolet radiation.

### 2. SCOPE

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The Policy will apply to all who attend the Centre.

The Policy will apply at all times the Pre-School is open and during any Pre-School organised events.

### 3. DEFINITIONS

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**Hats/Head coverings** are required to provide shade to the face, back of neck and ears (eg: wide brimmed, legionnaire or bucket style hat)

**Minimum clothing required** is a t-shirt with sleeves or equivalent.

**Skin protection** is SPF 30+ or higher broad spectrum water resistant sunscreen.

**Shade** is an area sheltered from direct sunlight, e.g. a large tree, canopy, or artificial cover.

## 4. IMPLEMENTATION RESOURCES

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- Any information received at the Centre relevant to the SunSmart Policy will be available through the parent library or on request.
- Regular updates relevant to the SunSmart Policy will be communicated via newsletter.

### *Relevant Documents / Links*

- Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF)
- National Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)
- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Section 167
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: regulations 113,114, 168 (2) (a) (ii)

## PROCEDURES

Staff are encouraged to access the SunSmart UV Alert at [sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au) to find out daily local sun protection times to assist with the implementation of this policy.

We use a combination of sun protection measures for all outdoor activities from **September to the end of April** and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above, the level that can damage skin and eyes.

- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all other outdoor activities.
- Children are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.  
Children who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing are asked to play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.
- Families should provide children with a hat which shades the face, back of the neck, ears, and cool clothing that covers as much skin as possible eg: a shirt with a collar and sleeves. Fabrics which are closely woven are recommended.
- Each morning families should apply sunscreen to their child before exposure to the sun. SPF 30+ or higher broad spectrum sunscreen is provided at the Centre for families to apply to their child.
- Sunscreen is applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours if outdoors.
- With parental consent, children with naturally very dark skin are not required to wear sunscreen to help with vitamin D requirements.
- From 3 years of age, children are encouraged to apply their own sunscreen under supervision of staff. Staff cannot apply sunscreen to every child due to time factors and allergy reaction to specific sunscreen.
- Families are requested to support the Centre's skin protection policy by practicing skin protection behaviour in your lifestyle and be a role model for children.
- Educative information about the SunSmart Policy requirements and the harmful effects of exposure to ultra violet rays will be reinforced in a positive way through parent newsletters, informal contact and Pre-School notice boards during the times of greatest risk (usually from September to end April).
- At relevant times the teacher will include SunSmart education in the program planned for the children
- The staff will ensure that children, staff and participants within the program wear a hat outdoors at all times during which there is a risk from ultraviolet rays.

## KEY RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITIES

- It is the responsibility of the Committee of Management to ensure that all staff and families are aware of this policy and that it is implemented within the Centre.
- The Policy may be viewed in the Centre Policy Book which is kept at the Centre and reference to this Policy will be included in the Centre Information Book which is given to all families prior to their child entering the program.
- Staff are responsible for the day to day implementation of this Policy.
- The Committee of Management, or their delegated representative, is responsible for ensuring that SPF 30+ or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen is available at the Centre at all times.
- The Committee of Management, or their delegated representative, is responsible for ensuring the required supply of spare hats are available for children and staff at all times and laundered after casual wear.
- Management makes sure there is a sufficient number of shelters and trees providing shade in the outdoor area.

## AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the Approved Provider of Albert Park Preschool on 3 March 2014.

**REVIEW DATE:** Aug 2016