Policy: Sun Protection

RATIONALE:
The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all staff members and children enrolled at our preschool are protected from skin damage caused by harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun whilst attending preschool. Skin cancer rates are increasing, currently in Australia 400 000 people are diagnosed with skin cancers due to over exposure to UV radiation. UV radiation can be high even on cool or overcast days. A UV radiation level of 3 is high enough to cause skin damage. We need to take action when the UV radiation level is 3 or higher.

Children’s skin is more sensitive to sunlight exposure than an adult’s skin. It can take less than 10 minutes for a child’s skin to burn. They should never be left in the sun on high UV rating days without sun protection. Children are not required to wear hats in Terms 2 and 3 when the UV rating does not reach 3.

Our practice seeks to promote positive attitudes towards skin protection amongst staff, children and families.

We achieve this through the following procedures

- Provide families with sun safe information at enrolment and during their child’s time at preschool.
- Provide SPF 30+ sun cream for children and staff
- Reapply sun cream to all children prior to having lunch
- Include sun safety in the curriculum and children’s learning
- Ensure all children playing outside are wearing appropriate hats and clothing
- Provide shade for children to play outside
- Activities will be provided within the shaded areas
- Where possible activities will be conducted inside at times of peak UV radiation or held undercover
- Act as positive role models, staff will wear appropriate sun protection whilst outside including hats, clothing and sunscreen

Hats must be broad brimmed, leggonnaire style or large bucket hats that cover the face, head, ears and back of neck. Children will be required to play inside or under the veranda, or borrow a spare hat if they do not have an appropriate hat of their own. Parents must provide their child with appropriate head wear each day during Terms 1 and 4.

Clothing must cover children’s shoulders and backs. Singlet’s, strapped tops or dresses, tank tops and backless dresses are not appropriate clothing for effective sun protection. Parents are asked not to send their child dressed in these types of clothing. Children wearing clothing that does not provide effective sun protection will be required to play inside or under the veranda or provided with an appropriate top.

Sunscreen will be provided at preschool and will be applied to children during the lunch routine and whenever needed / required at other times of the day. If your child is sensitive to sun cream you will need to provide the preschool with their own, clearly labelled and named, sunscreen. Any sun cream provided must be SPF 30+.

Families are expected to apply sunscreen in the mornings prior to children arriving at preschool.

Endorsed by Staff and Governing Council March 2014
Review Date March 2016

Sources:
Cancer Council SA
www.cancersa.org.au Reviewed July 2012