

Sun Protection Policy

Rationale

Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world, with 2 out of 3 people developing some form of skin cancer within their lifetime. Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Sun exposure in the first 18 years of life determines, to a substantial degree, the likelihood of skin cancer developing later in life.

Cancer Council SA advises people protect their skin at times when the ultraviolet (UV) radiation level is 3 or above- this is when the UV is strong enough to cause damage to unprotected skin. For much of South Australia, UV radiation levels are 3 and above every day from the beginning of August to end of April and it is during these months that sun protection is necessary.

The Cancer Council SA also suggests that UV radiation levels may be 3 or above during the remaining months of the year (particularly May) and UV levels should be monitored to determine whether sun protection should be implemented on these days.

Aims

The Aims of the Angaston Kindergarten Sun Protection Policy is to:

- Reduce the risk of skin damage and promote skin protection among children, staff and families.
- Promote positive attitudes towards skin protection
- Develop personal responsibilities for decision making about skin protection
- Develop lifestyle practices which can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and the number of related deaths.

Implementation

This policy will be implemented during terms 1, 3 and 4 and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above, at other times at Angaston Kindergarten. All children, parents and staff of Angaston Kindergarten will use the following skin protection strategies:

- 1. Take care to protect the skin when the ultraviolet radiation level is 3 or above and take extra care between peak UV radiation times of the day (10am - 2pm non-daylight savings and 11am – 3pm daylight savings) when UV radiation levels are at their highest.**
 - 1.1 Apply sunscreen when the ultra violet radiation level is 3 and above.
 - 1.2 Parents are requested to apply sunscreen to their child before/on their arrival at the Centre. SPF 30 or higher
 - 1.3 Parents are asked upon enrolment to give permission for sunscreen to be applied.
 - 1.4 Educators will monitor the daily UV Index and apply an SPF 30 or higher, broad spectrum sunscreen (supplied by the Centre) between 11.00am-12.00pm when the UV is 3 and above.
 - 1.5 Staff will support children to independently apply their own sunscreen.
 - 1.6 If a child has an allergy to the sunscreen provided by the Centre, parents and guardians must send their child's own sunscreen, clearly labelled with their name.
 - 1.7 Staff will model the application of sunscreen
 - 1.8 Information about the importance of sun protection is part of our enrolment package.
- 2. Use the shaded areas of the kindergarten to engage in Learning Experiences.**
 - 2.1 Outdoor activities will be restricted to shaded areas on high risk days (when ultraviolet radiation is level at High or above)

Sun Protection Policy

2.2 When planning or scheduling outdoor excursions or activities, peak UV times and shade availability will be considered.

3. Wear appropriate clothing which protects the skin.

- 3.1 Children and staff at Angaston Kindergarten wear a broad brimmed/bucket hat when outside. Cords should not be attached to hats as they present a choking hazard.
- 3.2 Bucket hats can be purchased for a minimal cost from the Centre.
- 3.3 Hats will be worn by children, staff and parents during terms 1, 3 and 4 and the UV rating will be monitored during term 2 and when the UV rating is 3 or above hats will be worn.
- 3.4 Children, staff and parents must wear appropriate sun smart clothing- T shirts/polo shirts with collars and elbow length or long sleeves are encouraged, as are longer style shorts/pants. Tank tops/singlets are not acceptable.
- 3.5 Children not wearing sun safe clothing will be asked to play inside/under the veranda or given spare clothing if available.
- 3.6 Staff will be role models by wearing broad brimmed/bucket hats, sunscreen and appropriate clothing.
- 3.7 Parents on site are also encouraged to wear a hat.

4. The special needs of babies:

- 4.1 Babies (under the age of 12months) should be kept out of the direct sunlight as much as possible and be always protected by shade, clothing and hats all year around.
- 4.2 Sunscreen should be applied to small areas of skin exposed skin not by clothing and hats, where necessary, for infants six months and older.

5. Reinforcing the Sun Smart message in all service activities and in general service procedures is an important strategy in the adoption of skin protection behaviours.

- 5.1 Staff will be expected to role model appropriate Sun Smart strategies in all service activities when the UV is 3 and above. This includes wearing sun protective hats, clothing, sunglasses (optional), applying sunscreen and seeking shade. Sun protection is also a Work, Health and Safety UV risk control for staff.
- 5.2 Sun smart behaviours and skin protection will be included in the curriculum
- 5.3 Information about the centre's Sun Protection Policy will be given to all families at time of enrolment and new staff as part of their induction process.

6. The Angaston Kindergarten Sun Protection Policy will be reviewed and evaluated on a two yearly basis.

- 6.1 Policy issues will be discussed at Staff and Governing Council Meetings
- 6.2 Policy reviews will seek the input of families.

Endorsed by Governing Council and Staff

Governing Council Chair: 

Date: 6/12/22

Director: 

Date: 6.12.2022