

Mitcham Preschool Centre

Skin Protection Policy

Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world. Skin damage is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun.

Therefore, the Cancer Council SA advises people protect their skin at times when the ultraviolet (UV) radiation level is 3 and above - this is when it is strong enough to cause damage to unprotected skin. The Cancer Council recommends that a skin protection policy is in place from August 1st until April 30th when UV radiation levels are 3 and above. Between May and August, the Cancer Council recommends that UV levels are monitored and appropriate skin protection policies are adopted when necessary.

Statement of Intent:

The aim of the Mitcham Preschool Centre's Skin Protection Policy is to promote among young children, educators and parents a positive attitude towards skin protection and lifestyle practices which can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer. It is an expectation that all educators, children and parents of the Preschool will use the following skin protection strategies.

Implementation

This policy is for implementation from September 1st to April 30th. Outside of this time, UV radiation levels will be monitored and care will be taken when UV levels reach 3 and above.

1. Take care to protect the skin from ultraviolet radiation when playing outdoors.

Between 10am - 3pm activities will be located in shaded areas, using the shade of trees, pergolas, umbrellas and/or tents. Children will be directed to play in the shaded areas.

2. Wear appropriate clothing which protects the skin.

Children, educators and parents will be expected to wear a broad brimmed hat, legionnaire style hat or bucket hat when outdoors.

2.1. When children do not have a hat, the Preschool's policy of "NO HAT NO OUTDOOR PLAY" will be implemented and children without a hat will only be able to access indoor & verandah areas.

2.2. Children will be encouraged to wear clothing that covers their shoulders, e.g. no strappy tops or tank tops.

3. Apply a broad-spectrum sunscreen.

Parents are expected to apply sun screen to children every morning.

3.1. Sunscreen will be available at the Preschool and will be reapplied after lunch, before going outside in the afternoon.

4. Reinforcing the skin protection message in all Preschool activities and in general Preschool procedures is an important strategy in adopting skin protection procedures.

4.1. Educators will role model skin protection strategies in all Preschool activities.

4.2. Skin cancer prevention will be included in appropriate teaching activities. Educators will be encouraged to keep up to date with new information and resources from Cancer Council SA.

4.3. Information about the Preschool's Skin Protection Policy will be given to all new educators, children and families.

5. The Preschool's Skin Protection Policy will be evaluated on a yearly basis. Policy issues will be discussed at Governing Council & educator meetings.

Approved: Governing Council Chairperson

Approved: Mitcham Preschool Director