



Black Rock Pre School Centre Inc.

55 Bluff Road Black Rock Vic. 3193 Phone 9598 1479

Registered Number A0002536R

SUN & EXTREME WEATHER PROTECTION POLICY

Mandatory – Quality Area 2

1. PURPOSE

This policy will provide:

- Guidelines to ensure children, educators, volunteers and others participating in Black Rock Pre School programs and activities maintain a healthy balance of ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure & weather exposure
- Information for parents/guardians, educators, volunteers and children attending Black Rock Pre School regarding a healthy balance of UV radiation & weather exposure.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. VALUES

Black Rock Pre School is committed to:

- promoting sun protection strategies for children, families, staff and visitors to minimise the harmful effects of over exposure to UV radiation, while allowing some UV exposure for vitamin D requirements
- ensuring that curriculum planning will promote an awareness of sun protection and sun safe strategies & protection from the weather

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Responsible person, educators, staff, students on placement, volunteers, parents/guardians, children and others attending the programs and activities of Black Rock Pre School.

This policy will apply for terms 1 & 4 each year. During this period a combination of sun protection measures are to be used for all outdoor activities.

3. BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION

Background

Balanced exposure to UV radiation is important for health. Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. Research suggests that young children and babies have sensitive skin and are therefore more vulnerable to sunburn and skin damage. Exposure to the sun in the first 15 years plays a major role in the risk of developing skin cancer in later life.

It is also important to have a healthy balance of UV radiation exposure. Too little UV from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. Vitamin D is necessary for the development and maintenance of healthy bones and muscles, and for general health. Appropriate levels of sun exposure can vary from child to child.

It is a requirement under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 that employers provide a healthy and safe environment for all persons who access the service's facilities and/or programs.

Legislation that governs the operation of approved children's services is based on the health, safety and welfare of the children and requires that children are protected from hazards and harm. It has been agreed with the approved provider and management that no child will be allowed outdoors (apart from under shaded areas) once the temperature reaches 33 Celsius or the weather, including wind level, is classified as potentially harmful to the children. Suncream will be applied to all children during terms 1 & 4 and/or the UV reaches 3.

Legislation and standards

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Vic) (Part 2: Principles for Children)
- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Section 167
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: Regulations 114, 168(2)(a)(ii)
- National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety
 - Concept: 2.2: Each child is protected
 - Descriptor 2.1.2: Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

4. DEFINITIONS

The terms defined in this section relate specifically to this policy. For commonly used terms e.g. Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Regulatory Authority etc. refer to the General Definitions section of this manual.

Clothing for sun protection: Clothing that is loose-fitting, comfortable and suitable for outdoor activities.

Shade: An area sheltered from direct and indirect sun, such as a large tree, canopy or artificial cover. As recommended by Cancer Council Victoria, where possible, shade will provide a minimum of 94% protection against UV radiation.

Sunscreen: SPF 30+, broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen. Monitor the expiry date and store in a cool, dry place.

Sunhat: To protect the neck, ears, temples, face and nose, Broad-brimmed, Legionnaire or bucket style hats are recommended. Baseball caps and visors offer little protection to the cheeks, ears and neck, and are not recommended.

5. SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES

Sources

- AS/NZS 4486.1:1997 – Playgrounds and Playground Equipment Part 1: Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation Shade/Sun Protection
- Safe Work Australia: Guide on Exposure to Solar Ultraviolet Radiation (UVR) (2019)
- Cancer Council Australia: www.cancer.org.au/sunsmart
- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety
 - Standard 2.3: Each child is protected
 - Element 2.3.2: Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury
- SunSmart: www.sunsmart.com.au
- www.bom.gov.au

- Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA) Building Quality Standards Handbook (BQSH): Section 5.1.4 Shade Areas (2020)

Service policies

- Excursions and Service Events Policy
- Nutrition and Active Play Policy
- Occupational Health and Safety Policy

PROCEDURES

The Approved Provider is responsible for:

- ensuring parents/guardians are informed about the Sun Protection Policy on enrolment, including the need to provide a sunhat for their child when attending the service
- providing a supply of sunscreen for use on all persons to whom this policy applies
- encouraging parents/guardians to apply sunscreen to their child prior to arrival at the centre and provide an authority for staff to apply sunscreen midway through full day sessions and that this is stored with each child's enrolment record
- recommending children wear appropriate sunhats and sunscreen when attending the service
- ensuring that the availability of shade is considered in a risk assessment prior to conducting excursions and other outdoor events (Regulations 100, 101)
- reminding educators, staff, children and other participants at the service to wear sunhats when outside, apply sunscreen (if approved by parents) and seek shade
- reinforcing this policy by providing information on sun to service users via newsletters, noticeboards, meetings and websites etc.

The Nominated supervisor and responsible person are responsible for:

- ensuring parents/guardians are informed of the Sun Protection Policy on enrolment, including the need to provide a sunhat (refer to Definitions) for their child when attending the service
- obtaining a parent's/guardian's authority for staff to apply sunscreen midway through any long day sessions
- ensuring that the availability of shade is considered in a risk assessment prior to conducting excursions and other outdoor events (Regulations 100, 101).

Certified Supervisors and other educators are responsible for:

- wearing sunhats (refer to Definitions) when outside, applying sunscreen and seeking shade during terms 1 & 4
- reminding each child, and any other participant at the service to wear an appropriate sunhat and sunscreen for all outdoor activities during terms 1 & 4
- applying sunscreen (refer to Definitions) to children's exposed skin – except in cases where parents/guardians have not given authority midway through any long day session. Children, where appropriate, will be encouraged to apply sunscreen with the assistance of an educator
- storing sunscreen in a cool place and monitoring the expiry date
- encouraging that children without sunhats play in the shade or in a suitable area protected from the sun
- encouraging children to seek shade when playing outside and utilise shaded areas for outdoor equipment that is not fixed during terms 1 & 4.
- ensuring that sun protection strategies are a priority when planning excursions
- co-operating with their employer with respect to any action taken by the employer to comply with the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 .

Parents/guardians are responsible for:

- providing a names roll on sunscreen for their child's use at the service
- applying sunscreen to their child before the commencement of each session during terms 1 & 4
- providing written authority for staff to apply sunscreen to their child.

Volunteers and students, while at the service, are responsible for following this policy and its procedures.

EVALUATION

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the Approved Provider will:

- regularly seek feedback from educators, staff, parents/guardians, children, management and all affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
- monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy
- keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
- revise the policy and procedures as part of the service's policy review cycle, or as required
- notify parents/guardians at least 14 days before making any change to this policy or its procedures.

AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the BRPS Committee of Management and updated by executive committee in Nov 2016.

Reviewed May 2019

August 2020

REVIEW DATE: August 2022