

Publication Date	24/10/2021
Version	v.02
Reviewed Date	19/01/2023
Owner	Lauren Kluske

Riverbanks College B-12 Preschool Sun Protection and Inclement Weather Policy

Rationale

Riverbanks College B-12 Preschool is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy working and learning environment for children, families, community members, staff and visitors to the preschool. Inclement weather may be caused by electrical storms, excessive heat/cold, wind, rain, dust, smoke, etc. To achieve these aims RBC preschool has developed the Sun Protection and Inclement Weather policy.

A balance of ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure is important for health. Too much of the sun's UV radiation can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Sun exposure during childhood and adolescence is a major factor in determining future skin cancer risk. Too little UV radiation from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. Vitamin D is essential for healthy bones and muscles, and for general health.

Objectives

This SunSmart policy has been developed to:

- 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
- ensure all children and staff have some UV radiation exposure for vitamin D
- assist children to be responsible for their own sun protection
- ensure families and new staff are informed of the preschool's Sun Smart policy.

Procedures

Riverbanks College preschool uses a combination of sun protection measures for all outdoor activities throughout the year. Riverbanks College staff will access the daily sun protection times via the Sun Smart app to assist with implementing of outdoor play.

1. Clothing

Quality area 2: Children's health and safety

- When outside, children are required to wear loose fitting clothing that cover as much skin as possible. Clothing made from cool, closely woven fabric is recommended. Tops with elbow length sleeves, collars and knee length or longer style shorts and skirts are best. If a child is wearing a singlet top or dress they wear a t-shirt/shirt over the top before going outdoors.

2. Sunscreen

Quality area 2: Children's health and safety

- SPF 30 or higher, broad spectrum and water-resistant sunscreen is available for staff and children's use
- sunscreen is available for parents to apply on arrival to preschool and educators will support children to
- reapply at 11am and 1pm.
- children, are encouraged to apply their own sunscreen under the supervision of staff.

3. Hats

Quality area 2: Children's health and safety

- All children are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears, i.e. legionnaire, broad brimmed or bucket hats. Baseball or peak caps are not considered a suitable alternative.

4. Shade

Quality area 2: Children's health and safety

Quality area 3: Physical environment

- educators and governing council ensure there is a sufficient number of shelters and trees providing shade
- in the outdoor area
- the availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all other outdoor activities
- outdoor activities are scheduled outside the peak UV radiation times or in the shade where possible.
- 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.

5. Sunglasses [optional]

Quality area 2: Children's health and safety

- Children and staff are encouraged to wear close fitting, wrap around sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard AS/NZS 1067:2003 (Sunglasses: lens category 2, 3 or 4) and cover as much of the eye area as possible.

6. Enrolment and information for families

Quality area 6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities When enrolling their child, families are:

- informed of the preschool's SunSmart policy
- are provided with a preschool hat when they begin
- asked to provide their child with suitable outdoor clothing that is cool and covers as much skin as possible
- (i.e. shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts)
- required to give permission for staff to apply sunscreen to their child
- families and visitors are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures (sun protective clothing and hats, shade, sunglasses and sunscreen) when attending the preschool.

7. Staff WHS and role modelling

Quality area 5: Relationships with children

As part of WHS UV risk controls and role modelling, when the UV radiation is 3 and above, staff:

- wear sun protective hats, clothing and sunglasses when outside
- apply SPF 30 or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen
- seek shade whenever possible.

8. Education

Quality area 1: Educational program and practice

Quality area 5: Relationships with children

Quality area 6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities

- sun protection and vitamin D are incorporated into the learning and development program
- the SunSmart policy is reinforced through staff and children's activities and displays

9. Policy review

Quality area 7: Leadership and service management

Management and staff monitor and review the effectiveness of the Sun Smart policy and revise the policy when required (at least once every three years).

- This policy applies to all preschool events on and off-site

Legislation

This policy relates to the following National Law and Regulations:

- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010:
Section 167 – Protection from harm and hazards
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011:
Regulation 100 – Risk assessment must be conducted before excursion
Regulation 113 – Outdoor space – natural environment
Regulation 114 – Outdoor space – shade
Regulation 168: Policies and procedures (2)(a)(ii) – sun protection

National Quality Standards

All of the following SunSmart procedures link to: Quality area 2: Children's health and safety. There are also links to:

- Quality area 1: Educational program and practice
- Quality area 3: Physical environment
- Quality area 5: Relationships with children
- Quality area 6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
- Quality area 7: Leadership and service management

Riverbanks College preschool Leader will:

- Make the decision regarding the implementation of the Sun Protection and Inclement Weather Policy.
- Ensure this policy is understood by RBC preschool staff and implemented in RBC preschool.

References

- Cancer Council SA
<https://www.cancersa.org.au/cut-my-risk/sunsmart/early-childhood-centres/sunsmart-policyinformation>
- DFE Inclement Weather and Sun Protection
<https://edi.sa.edu.au/hr/for-managers/health-and-safety/creating-a-safe-workplace/inclementweather-and-sun-protection>