

## **SUN PROTECTION POLICY**

### **PURPOSE:**

The Sun Protection Policy applies to both children and staff with the aim to promote sun safety and reduce exposure to UVR through a comprehensive approach considering sun protection behaviour, organisation of activities, the outdoor environment and education of children, staff and parents.

### **IMPLEMENTATION:**

We have developed this policy in consultation with Cancer Council NSW information booklet Sun Smart Childcare – a policy guide for service providers. The aim of the policy is to reduce the risk of long term skin damage by exposure to UV radiation caused by our harsh climate and hot sun. We have learnt from information gathered that sun exposure in the first 15 years of life can greatly increase the risk of developing skin cancer in later life.

Our policy applies to all who attend our centre, being children, staff, families and visitors. The policy applies all year round but with different some varied conditions as stated below:

- From January to May and from August to December, sun protection is required all day, including before and after the peak UV times of 10.00am and 2.00pm (11am to 3pm during daylight saving)
- Outdoor play does not occur between 10am and 2pm (11am and 3pm during daylight saving)
- During June and July, the use of hats and sunscreen are not required before 10am and after 2pm as the UV index is less than 3.

The centre will help to promote this policy by providing each child with a legionnaire hat on enrolment (\$9 fee). Staff will ensure that these hats are worn during outdoor play at all times throughout the year. The centre will encourage a “no hat – play indoors” strategy.

The centre will provide SPF 30+ broad spectrum sunscreen lotion, with parents expected to apply the lotion on arrival. Staff will assume the responsibility for applying or re - applying sunscreen when required and 20 minutes before the outdoor session.

Parents will be requested to provide protective clothing for outdoor play, specifically shirts that cover the shoulders and mid-riff. If inappropriate clothing is worn and there is no other appropriate clothing available, children will be encouraged to play indoor. All staff will wear hats and apply / reapply sunscreen before the outdoor play sessions and as required. The Licensee will be responsible for ensuring that the outdoor play area is well shaded by trees, shade cloth and portable shade equipment.

During outdoor play equipment will be set up in shaded areas with children being encouraged to play in the shade. Staff will incorporate sun protection awareness activities in teaching programs and display posters

available from the Cancer Council NSW as reinforcement for these programs. Information booklets and pamphlets on Sun Protection will be available to parents.

Children under 12 months of age, and those children and staff who are not able to wear any sunscreen for medical reasons, will use only the shaded areas of the playground and not be exposed to direct sunlight. Our policy will be marked for review when issues arise or at the least every 12 months.

Reviewed:           10 June 2005 by    M Duffy-Fagan  
                          16 March 2005 by   M Duffy-Fagan  
                          20 April 2006 by    M Duffy-Fagan  
Source:             The Cancer Council NSW  
                          Sun Smart Childcare – A policy guide for service  
                          providers