Victor Harbor Community Kindergarten

Statement:
Our centre aims to ensure our children are suitably clothed in relation to changing weather conditions and that clothing and footwear is safe and appropriate for the activities being undertaken.

Procedures
* Children are encouraged to wear footwear that does not easily slip off such as thongs or scuffs at the centre. “Crocs” will be considered as thongs. All children’s and staff footwear should have a strap at the heel to prevent possible injury.
* Children will be permitted to remove footwear for appropriate activities such as sand and water play. However, once children have finished these activities shoes must be put on to prevent injury such as bee or wasp stings.

* Cords on clothing such shorts, winter jackets and hats should be shortened to the length of 20cm or removed as this provides a hazard for choking and entrapment in equipment in outdoor equipment.

* Badges, which pin onto children’s clothes that are not equipped with safety catches need to be removed as they are unsafe to be worn at the centre.
* Costume jewelry such as beads, beaded bracelets, rings etc provides a potential hazard in the event of breakage. Families are requested not to bring these items to the centre.

* Sunsafe clothing must be worn at all times. This means that clothing should cover the shoulders. Tank tops, dresses with straps and singlet tops are not suitable covering for hot weather. Staff will put a T-shirt over the top of clothing if it is unsuitable. Parents should also provide a hat each day, consistent with the Sun safe policy-otherwise children will be asked to play in the shade or indoors.
* Appropriate warm clothing needs to be supplied during winter. Staff will encourage and assist children to dress appropriately for the changes in weather through wearing jackets and jumpers to maintain sound health. Staff will ensure children are adequately clothed in response to changes in weather.

*Staff will be sensitive to cultural differences in clothing and work with families on any issues.

*Toileting of young children relies heavily on their confidence and ability to become independent. Parents are requested to send children in clothes, which are easily manageable for the child. Bib and brace overalls, zippers and clips are difficult for children to use. Track pants and shorts with elastic assist children to toilet train successfully.

*Our centre has a rich, creative program and therefore children will be exposed to messy experiences. Parents are asked to send their children to kindergarten in work clothing (clothes that can messy), to ensure that they are not inhibited whist involved in creative play. Smocks are provided for children to use during messy play if parents require their child to stay as clean as possible.

Sources:  * Victor Harbor Child Care and Education Centre
          * Kidsafe-www.kidsafe.org.au
          * Cancer Council SA

APPROVED AND CHECKED BY:
AUTHORISED:

VHCK CENTRE DIRECTOR  DATE

GOVERNING COUNCIL REPS.  DATE