Preschool Hot Weather Policy

This policy is applicable to: All DECD preschool sites

DOCUMENT CONTROL

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<tr>
<th>Managed by:</th>
<th>Approved by:</th>
<th>Version:</th>
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<td>Director</td>
<td>Governing Council</td>
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<th>Contact person/position</th>
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APPROVED AND CHECKED BY:

AUTHORISED:

VHCK CENTRE DIRECTOR DATE:

GOVERNING COUNCIL REPS. DATE:
1 TITLE

Preschool Hot Weather Policy

2. PURPOSE

This policy provides guidance and direction to the Director and staff for the well being and safety of children and staff in extreme heat.

The policy will outline specific site arrangements in the case of hot weather, including strategies aimed at reducing the risk of heat illness to young children.

2 SCOPE

This policy applies to all children and staff at this site.

3 OBJECTIVE

The Objective of this policy to outline how this site will reduce the risk of heat illness to young children and comply with relevant occupational health, safety and welfare legislation for the safety and well being of staff members.

The policy will be underpinned by the need to ensure that:

*All staff must take reasonable care to protect their own health and safety and that of others in the site

* The director has a duty of care to behave in manner that ensures no foreseeable harm befalls children and staff under their care (source: Site Leaders and the Law)

* The objectives of the “Children’s Services Act 1985 “ are upheld:

7-Objects

(2) In dealing with children under the Act, the Minister shall regard the interest of the children as the paramount consideration
The requirements of the National Standard will be met:

2.3.2 Reasonable steps will be taken to identify and manage risks, and every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and hazards

* The service will provide a comfortable and safe environment for children

* Heating and cooling equipment provided to maintain a comfortable temperature for children

* Sun protection advice from the Cancer Council will guide practice

4 POLICY DETAIL

4.1 Research background to be considered

The policy recognises that children are at a greater risk of suffering heat illness than adults. A child’s ability to respond to environmental heat and acclimatise to heat is due to physiological differences.

“Children sweat less and get less evaporative cooling than adults in warm and hot weather they have greater difficulty getting rid of heat; they look flushed and feel hotter and more stressed than adults.”

Source: “Sports Medicine Australia”

4.2 Strategies to reduce the risk of heat illness in young children

* Shade Activities conducted in periods of hot weather will be undertaken in shaded areas.

* Drinks Children are encouraged to drink water throughout the day. Cool water is readily available from drink eskies positioned in cool areas - one on veranda and one in the art area room. Ice blocks are added on warmer days. Drinks are encouraged at fruit times, lunch times and rest times.

* Clothing Parents are encouraged to dress children in clothing that minimises heat gain, in layers that can be removed during activity and of a type that is sunsafe. Refer www.arpansa.gov/radiationprotection/factsheets/is_UVProtection.cfm

* Lunch Parents are encouraged to pack food in insulated containers with a freezer brick in small lunch esky. Refrigerator is provided to store lunches/fruit /drink bottles.
4.3. Characteristics of the Centre

The Victor Harbor Community Kindergarten is located in a well ventilated position near the Inman River and two streets from the beach front. This allows regular fresh air flow through the play area. It's not an enclosed site. The building is solid brick structure with open floor plans that allows for good air flow throughout the building. There is a large veranda for covered play. The building structure has 3 recycled air conditioners well placed throughout the centre. The site's effective cooling system will be activated when necessary to cool the inside area. Every area has adequate number of ceiling fans. The cooling systems will be regularly serviced every 3 months.

4.4. Play ground Design

The site has 3 well ventilated sun shaded areas for play. These shaded areas are used to provide play experiences in a sun safe manner. The yard is open to natural ventilation.

4.5. Site arrangements in case of Hot weather

*It is recognised that the risk of heat stress is a factor of both air temperature and relative humidity levels.

Routine Practices:
The children are encouraged to drink water and they are reminded to drink at nominated breaks in the day.
There are routine food breaks- morning fruit time, lunch and afternoon food time.
In the afternoon staff provide passive activities with emphasis on quiet, rested play.

Contingency plans to manage events which affect normal functioning during hot weather

In the event of a hot weather black out- staff would set up the sandpit and covered area with lots of water play to cool children down.

In the event of a breakdown of the cooling system -same as above.
5  ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Chief Executive
This policy is issued under the authority of the Chief Executive.

Site managers
- Responsible for the maintenance and review of this policy.

Employees
- Responsible to follow and implement strategies of this policy

6  MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW
This site shall review and evaluate the effectiveness of these processes annually. The Director must ensure that employees are consulted and provided with any necessary instruction, training and supervision to ensure that control measures are effectively implemented.

7  DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS
Within this document, the following terms have the meanings given.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
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<td>Extreme heat</td>
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<td>Heat illness</td>
<td>High temperature, flushed, very lethargic, fainting, heat stroke (may vomit)</td>
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8  References

Sports Medicine of Australia  Cancer Council of S.A.