



Victor Harbor Community Kindergarten

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

Sun Protection Policy

9 May, 2019

Updated and amendments made 8/2/2021

Purpose

Australia has the highest skin cancer rate in the world and it is now evident that exposure during childhood is a critical factor. Victor Harbor Community Kindergarten aims to support and promote sun protection by encouraging all children to wear appropriate wide brimmed hats, sun safe clothing and sun screen while at the centre.

Procedures

UV Radiation

1. UV radiation is present all year round and therefore the centre will promote sun protection each day of the year. Weather conditions are not an accurate guide to the potential for skin damage, as even on overcast days UV radiation levels can be high.
2. There is no relationship between UV radiation and temperature, therefore daily routines will be adapted to minimise UV exposure during peak radiation times (10am – 3pm), when ultraviolet radiation is Level 3 (moderate) or above.
3. The Director of the centre will monitor the weekly UV ratings for Victor Harbor and assist staff to prepare for the outdoor learning environment.
4. Staff will provide adequate 50+ sunscreen (Pharmacy Care Sunscreen Lotion 50+) while outside. This will assist in reducing the exposure of UV radiation on the children.
5. Sunscreen will not be applied on days where the UV rating is less than Level 3.
6. Staff will use the Cancer Council Sun Safe UV APP to assess rating levels during the colder months – May to September- and apply sunscreen only if the UV rating levels are at 3 or above.
7. Staff will be aware of shade patterns during the day and locate outside activities accordingly. Children will be actively and positively encouraged to use shaded areas when playing outside.
8. Staff will use their discretion when it comes to restricting outside play on extremely hot days or days where the UV rating level is dangerously high.

Protective Clothing

1. The children will be encouraged to wear protective clothing during the day. **Clothing** is an essential sun protection strategy and should cover as much of the skin as possible when outdoors.
2. Clothing should cover the child's shoulders at all times. Tank tops, sleeveless dresses and singlets are not considered suitable coverage. Staff will provide a t-shirt over the top of clothing if their clothing is unsuitable
3. **Shoes** that are enclosed are highly preferable over open shoes, such as sandals.
4. Parents are to ensure they provide their child with a named **sun hat** at all times. The best options include wide brimmed hats, bucket hats or legionnaires hat (without a cord to reduce the risks of choking hazards)
5. **Sun hats** are **mandatory** during Term 1 and Term 4. During Terms 2 and 3 hats are to be worn unless the UV rating is below 3
6. Research has shown that all children need a certain level of sun expose to build their Vitamin D levels. The Cancer Council of Australia recommends sunscreen is applied according to the UV rating between the months of May to September. Where the UV Rating is 3 or above sunscreen will be applied.

7. Families who attend excursions and functions at the centre will be encouraged to wear sun smart clothing and hats.
8. Staff will wear sun smart clothing and hats while outside. This will ensure a good example is being set for the children to follow.

Parental Responsibilities

1. Families are requested to apply sunscreen to their child prior to arriving at the centre, especially on days with a UV rating of Level 3 or above.
2. Staff will provide adequate 50+ sunscreen (Pharmacy Care Sunscreen Lotion 50+). If a child has an allergy to certain products and requires a particular brand to be used, parents must inform staff.
3. If a child has an allergy parents will be asked to supply their own sunscreen in its original packet with the child's name clearly written. This will then remain at the centre in the sunscreen basket on a top shelf, not kept in the child's bag.
4. Parents are to ensure they provide their child with a named **sun hat** at all times. The best options include wide brimmed hats, bucket hats or legionnaires hat. Hats with cords are not permitted, due to safety concerns. (See DfE hazard alert)
5. Parents are requested to dress their child in appropriate clothing for the hot days. Tank tops, singlet straps or mid-riff tops are not appropriate. Staff will provide spare t-shirts if any clothing is deemed unsuitable.
6. Parents are encouraged to dress their child in clothing that minimizes the chance of the child overheating. Dressing the child in layers that can be removed during activities is the best options.
7. Parents are required to supply a named water bottle each day and staff will encourage children to drink regularly to ensure adequate hydration.

Resources

1. Inclement weather and sun protection (DfE)
2. National Quality Standard and regulations
 - a. Regulation 168 (2) (a) (ii) - Policies and procedures
 - b. National Quality Standard - Standard 2.3 - Children's safety
 - c. Regulation 114 - Shade
3. Cancer Council SA – Sunsmart policy Information
4. UV radiation levels: www.sunsmart.com.au/uvalert

Approved and Checked By

Review 2022 or when required

Approved and Checked By:

Centre Director

.....Date

Governing Council Representative

.....Date