Sun Protection Policy

Quality Area 2: Children’s health and safety

Standard 2.1: Each child’s health is promoted.
Standard 2.2: Healthy eating and physical activity are embedded in the program for children.
Standard 2.3: Each child is protected.

The Facts;

1. Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world
2. 75% of skin damage occurs before age 17 years
3. Adoption of good sun protection behaviour at an early age is paramount to preventing adult skin cancer

Reference: Health Promotion Unit

The Australian International Islamic College Kindy endeavours to protect children, staff and visitors from damage caused from exposure to the sun in the following ways:

- Children when outside, under shade, they are wear sun safe hats and clothing. Small amounts of SPF30+ broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen may be applied to their exposed skin.
- Children, staff and visitors are required to wear broad brimmed hats when outdoors. Adults are to wear hats to protect themselves and to act as positive role models to children.
- A broad brimmed hat will need to be provided for the child for the centre.
- Broad brimmed hats are required by all permanent staff members upon employment.
- From October to March outdoor activities between 11am and 3pm will be minimised and sun protection is required throughout the day including sun screen and hats.
- From April to September outdoor play can take place at any time throughout the day. Sun protection is required between 10am and 2pm.
- During June and July, sun protection is not required throughout the day because the UV Index is mostly below 3.
- Educators are expected to use their discretion on warmer days during the periods where sun protection is not necessary, to use sun screen and hats to protect the children.
- A child who is fair in complexion should continue to use sun protection throughout the year.
- The Australian International Islamic College Kindy adopts a ‘No Hat No Outdoor Play’ policy. If a child does not have a hat during the designated outdoor periods, the Service will provide one, however, if a child refuses to wear a hat, he/she will be required to play indoors only.
- Sunglasses are encouraged to be worn by children, staff and visitors. Adults will remove sunglasses when speaking to children to ensure eye contact is given.
• Children are required to arrive at Service with sunscreen applied. Sunscreen will be available for the child’s parent to apply on arrival if they have been unable to do so at home. Sunscreen will be reapplied to the children later in the day prior to going outdoors. Suitable Sunscreen must be SPF 30+ broad-spectrum and water-resistant and applied 20 minutes before outside play. This will be reapplied every 2 hours.

• Staff members are also required to apply SPF30+ broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen which will be reapplied every 2 hours.

• Children, staff and visitors are required to wear clothing which covers as much skin as possible including shoulders, back and stomach e.g., collars, covered necklines, sleeves, longer skirts, shorts and trousers. Singlets and midriff tops are not recommended. Children who do not meet our sun safety dress standards will be required to play in the shade or indoors.

• Staff will role model and demonstrate sun safe behaviour by wearing sun safe clothing, sun safe hat, applying SPF 30 + sunscreen and promoting and using shade.

• Daily programs are designed to avoid being outdoors during the hottest part of the day. All outdoor activities will be planned to occur in shaded areas and will be relocated throughout the day to follow the shade.

• Shade will be maintained and included in playground plans and upgrades & will include fixed, portable, natural and manufactured built.

• Posters will be displayed to remind parents to use sunscreen and provide appropriate clothing for their children to ensure this policy is adhered to.

• Staff discretion will be used if it is deemed too hot/cold to be outside and as a result cause discomfort or pose a potential risk to the children in our care.

• Outdoor activities will be set up in the shaded areas if it is too hot to be in full sun.

• Shade cloth is to cover all sandpit areas, soft fall areas and quiet areas.

• Sun protection messages are included in the learning program and investigated in the change of seasons to maximise the awareness and importance of this issue. Sun protection education will be promoted to families, visitors as well as staff and children. Information will be sorted from the Cancer Council website www.cancercouncil.com.au/sunsmart

The Sun Protection Policy is available to staff, families and visitors in our Information Booklet, Staff Handbook and Policy Folder located in the kind room

Date that the policy was last updated or revised: January 2015

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Sun Protection Policy/Australian International Islamic College Kindy