Skin Protection and Hot Weather Policy

Rationale:
Skin Protection - Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world and skin damage is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. The Cancer Council of SA recommends that a skin protection Policy is in place from September 1st until 30th of April and between 10am and 3pm at ties when UV radiation levels are above 3.
It is important to balance sun protection with safe sun exposure for the production of Vitamin D for bone growth and development. During May to August sun protection for most people is not necessary.
Hot Weather – Children are susceptible to heat illness and measures can be followed to reduce the incidence of heat related illness.
This policy is in line with ACECQA regulations (NQS) and DECD policy.

The preschool
Believe it is important to promote among children, staff and parents:

- Positive attitudes towards skin protection
- Lifestyle practices that can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and the number of related deaths
- Personal responsibility for and decision making about skin protection and health during hot weather.

It is an expectation that all staff, students and parents of Norrie Stuart Childhood Services Centre will use the following Skin Protection and Hot Weather strategies:

- Outdoor Activities will be scheduled in shaded areas of the service at high UV times
- Appropriate clothing to protect skin includes wearing a broad rimmed hat, legionnaire style hat or bucket hat whenever involved in outdoor activities. Children not wearing a hat will be expected to stay in the indoors. A spare hat may be provided from the centre
- Hats are available from the centre for a minimal cost.
- A broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen with a SPF of 30+ will be applied prior to attendance on high UV days. Sunscreen will be supplied by the centre and the child will reapply it before lunch when attending the afternoon session. Children requiring their own sunscreen will be asked to supply it. This will be labeled, stored safely and used only by the child.
- Children are offered water or fluids frequently and they have access at all times to water.
- Parents are expected to provide children with adequately cool clothing that is layered and can be adjusted with temperature gains to minimize heat illness.
Parents are expected to provide lunch that can be cooled by a freezer brick and the site will store food in a cool dry place.

Staff are to ensure their own health and safety during times of high temperature and practices are paramount.

The service provides a safe and comfortable environment for all children at all times that ensures adequate heating and cooling is provided for children.

In the event of inadequate provision of cooling (breakdown of air-conditioning) when the temperature is above 36 degrees, children’s families will be contacted to collect children early and the remaining children will be supervised with water cooling activities until time of collection.

**Curriculum**

The staff at Norrie Stuart Childhood Services Centre will reinforce the sun safe message and heat illness awareness through role modeling and including appropriate teaching activities, in line with the EYLF Learning Outcome….. ‘Wellbeing’.

Learning activities are set up in shaded areas and during very hot weather play will occur inside for the majority of the day.

Staff will be encouraged to keep up to date with new information and resources from the Cancer Council SA and health authorities.

The staff and Governing Council are committed to the provision of adequate shade and annually review the outside area. Facilities manager provides appropriate workers to annually check the shade structures.

This policy will be shared with all new staff and families, and available to view in the Preschool Policies Booklet and on the Preschool Website.

Enrolled families will be asked to confirm they have read and understood this policy by signing the Information and Consent Form at the time of enrolment.

Endorsed and ratified by staff and Governing Council July 2012

To be reviewed July 2013