

CLOTHING POLICY

Children need protective, comfortable and appropriate clothing and footwear to explore their environment and participate freely in experiences. Clothing needs to protect children from injury and sun exposure whilst promoting self-help abilities. Appropriate footwear will fit a child’s foot correctly and ensure comfort. Educators will also dress to prevent injury and sun exposure and will be encouraged to dress in a professional and respectful manner, being positive role models for children.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN’S HEALTH AND SAFETY		
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected.
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.

QUALITY AREA 5: RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHILDREN		
5.1	Relationships between educators and children	Respectful and equitable relationships are maintained with each child.
5.1.1	Positive educator to child interactions	Responsive and meaningful interactions build trusting relationships which engage and support each child to feel secure, confident and included.
5.1.2	Dignity and rights of the child	The dignity and rights of every child are maintained.

RELATED POLICIES

Children’s Belongings Policy Family Communication Policy Health & Safety Policy Multicultural Policy Nappy Change & Toileting Policy	Respect for Children Policy Sleeping & Rest Requirements Policy Sun Safety Policy Supervision Policy
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PURPOSE

We aim to ensure the safety and comfort of all children by providing appropriate clothing guidelines for children, parents and staff utilising and working at the service.

Being clothed appropriately enables children to play without risk of sunburn and serious injury caused by inappropriate footwear or clothing. Children are more at ease, comfortable, and less anxious when they are dressed for warmth during winter or not over-dressed during summer, or wearing safe footwear when climbing outdoor play equipment or participating in physical activity.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management, and visitors of the service.

IMPLEMENTATION

Effective clothing strategies, including appropriate clothing for sun protection are important factors in ensuring a child feels safe and secure at our service.

Management/ Nominated Supervisor will:

- Ensure that a Sun Safety Policy is developed and maintained.
- Ensure that Educators are provided with personal protective equipment (e.g. gloves, goggles etc.) as required to facilitate cleaning and protect their health and safety.
- Provide information for Educators about suitable clothing and footwear expectations for the education and care work environment.
- Provide information for families about suitable clothing and footwear for their child. This information will also be available at the service using a variety of communication strategies including newsletters, brochures, websites, and posters.
- Ensure Educators are aware and abide by the Sun Safety Policy.

Educators will:

- Consult and communicate with families about the individual needs of children with respect to different values and beliefs associated with clothing and footwear.
- Monitor children's clothing and footwear to ensure compliance with the Sun Safety Policy and to support the safety, comfort, and wellbeing of every child.
- Consider clothing and footwear needs associated with excursions or planned learning experiences and communicate clearly with families about the need for extraordinary protective clothing requirements.
- Provide protective clothing, such as aprons, for messy play experiences and painting. Children will be encouraged by Educators to wear protective clothing during messy and water play.

- Encourage children to remove shoes and heavy or excessive layers of clothing during rest times to reflect the room temperature, as recommended practice by Red Nose.
- Take off children's jumpers and jackets with hoods during rest time to ensure children's safety.
- Encourage children to use their self-help skills where appropriate to put on and remove clothing and shoes to meet their needs. Educators will observe and monitor younger children to ensure their clothing and footwear is appropriate for the environment and weather conditions.
- Monitor the UV rating to ensure children are dressed appropriately for the weather and are adequately protected (e.g. long sleeve shirts).
- Discuss clothing with children: for example, the need to wear hats for sun protection.
- Model appropriate clothing: for example, wearing hats and sun safe clothing.
- Convey respect for children and appreciate their individuality, whilst developing their understanding of safe clothing and footwear for play and the weather.
- Encourage children to make choices in relation to getting dressed and the clothing they wear.
- Respect children's privacy and modesty when having children change their clothes or dressing themselves, ensuring that individual and/ or cultural needs and preferences are understood and catered for.

Families will:

- Provide spare clothing in children's bags to allow for dirty or soiled clothing and changing weather conditions. This includes a spare set of shoes and socks.
- Dress children appropriately for play and the weather, including footwear and an appropriate hat.
- Ensure their child is clothed in an appropriate manner which will allow them to explore and play freely and not restrict them using equipment while at play.
- Ensure clothing also allows easy access for toileting: i.e. elasticised trousers or track pants rather than buttons, zips, belts, etc.
- Not dress their children in good/expensive clothing where there is a chance the clothes will get dirty or stained.
- Ensure children are appropriately protected from the sun - please refer to *Sun Safety Policy* for further directives on hats and clothing.
- Ensure children's clothing accommodates the weather conditions. For example, be loose and cool in summer to prevent overheating and warm enough for cold weather, including outdoor play. At all times Educators will monitor children to ensure they are appropriately dressed for all weather, play experiences, rest and sleep routines.

- Ensure children have appropriate footwear that enables them to play comfortably and not cause safety concerns. For example, thongs, clogs or backless shoes have a trip factor and do not allow children to use equipment safely.
- Ensure all clothing and belongings are clearly labelled with the child's name.
- Be familiar with their child’s clothing fabric to minimise allergies and reactions.

Sources

Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority 2014

Cancer Council Australia: www.cancer.org.au

Community Child Care Co-Operative

Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2017

Guide to the National Quality Standard 2017

Raising Children Network – <http://raisingchildren.net.au>

Red Nose - <https://rednose.com.au>

Revised National Quality Standard 2018

National Health and Medical Research Council (2012) *Staying healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services.*

Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Cth)

REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED	June 2019	NEXT REVIEW DATE	June 2020
MODIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some sentences reworded/refined. • Additional information added to points. • Sources checked for currency. • Sources/references corrected, updated, and alphabetised. • Related policies alphabetised. 		
POLICY REVIEWED	PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS	NEXT REVIEW DATE	
June 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added the ‘Related Policy’ section • Expanded the Educator’s responsibilities by including items such as: checking UV ratings, modeling appropriate clothing, respecting children’s privacy and modesty etc. 	June 2019	

October 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated the references to comply with the revised National Quality Standard 	June 2018
June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor changes made to policy 	June 2018