



Karoonda Preschool Sun Protection Policy



Rationale:

Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world, with 1 out of every 2 people developing some form of skin cancer in their lifetime. There are four factors, often occurring simultaneously, which contribute to these statistics:

1. The population is predominately fair-skinned,
2. Ultraviolet radiation from the sun is of sufficient intensity to induce skin cancer in this susceptible population.
3. For many years social values have supported the belief that a suntan is healthy and attractive.
4. Lifestyle, work, school and recreational habits expose people to the sun over long periods.

Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Much of the damage occurs during childhood and adolescent. Research suggests that severe sunburn is a contributor to skin cancer and other forms of skin damage such as wrinkles, sunspots, blemishes and premature ageing. Most skin damage and skin cancer is, therefore, preventable.

Note: 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, at times when the UV radiation level is below 3, sun protection for most people is not necessary and, depending on environmental factors, some exemptions may be made.

Aims:

The aims of Karoonda Preschool's Sun Protection Policy are to promote among children, staff and parents:

1. Positive attitudes towards skin protection.
2. Lifestyle practices which can reduce the incidence of skin cancer and the number of related deaths.
3. Personal responsibility for and decision making about skin protection.
4. Awareness of the need for environmental changes in our centre to reduce the level of exposure to the sun.

Purpose:

The purpose of our policy is to ensure that all children, staff and parents are whenever possible, protected from skin damage caused by the harmful ultra-violet rays of the sun while at preschool.

This policy is implemented during all school terms as per the Karoonda Area School policy.

Policy:

1. Children, staff and helpers will wear hats when involved in play or activities outside.
2. No hat, no outside play. Staff will re-direct children without hats to under the verandah or inside the preschool building.
3. Hats need to be broad brimmed, legionnaire or bucket style.
4. A supply of SPF 30+ sunscreen will be kept at the preschool for use when required.
5. The preschool will incorporate sun and skin awareness activities into teaching programs.
6. Staff will be positive role models who practice skin protective behaviours. This will mean that:
 - a. staff will be required to wear hats and appropriate clothing for all outdoor activity
 - b. staff will be expected to use and direct children to shaded areas.
7. In hot weather children will be encouraged by staff to drink plenty of water and stay in the shade or remain indoors.
8. Staff will provide a "loan hat" for children, in the event that children must go outdoors as part of the curriculum.
9. When enrolling their child parents will be:
 - a. informed of the Sun Protection policy.
 - b. asked to provide a broad brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hat for their children's use.

In times of extreme conditions, the KAS Inclement Weather policy will operate at recess and lunch breaks. All children will come indoors to supervised areas.

Parent/Caregivers Responsibilities:

1. Provide a hat every day for their child that provides good protection to the face, ears and neck (eg a broad brimmed, bucket hat with good brim or legionnaire style).
2. Clothe their child in protective clothing – shirts and tops with collars and sleeves are best. Singlets, shoe-string tops or tops with exposed midriff are not acceptable.
3. Encourage their child to apply SPF 30+ sunscreen before coming to the preschool.
4. Be a good role model and wear a hat, sunscreen and protective clothing themselves.
5. Inform staff if children are allergic to sunscreen cream.

NQS Standard: 2.3

National Regulation: 168 (2) (a) (ii), 114

Policy date: 23-4-12

Endorsed by Karoonda Area School Principal and Governing Council Chairperson

Policy Review Due: 2015

