

Policy Document

Sun Protection			
Policy Hierarchy link	Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 & Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 Part 4.3 – Physical Environment, Division 2, Clause 113 – Outdoor Space – Natural Environment, Clause 114 – Outdoor Space – Shade, Part 4.7 – Governance and Leadership, Division 2, Clause 168 – Education and Care services must have Policies and Procedures (2) (a) (ii) Sun Protection National Quality Standards: Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety - Standard 2.1 - Each child's health and physical activity is supported and promoted, Standard 2.2 - Each child is Protected, Element 2.2.1 – At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.		
	Version	Authorised by	Effective Date
	5	SCECS Management	July 2026
			Revision Date
			July 2029

1. RATIONALE

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation in childhood is a major risk factor for the development of skin cancer later in life. By implementing best practice sun protection strategies, the Education and Care service can help protect children from UV radiation and promote awareness of good sun protection habits and minimise exposure to the sun.

This policy is guided by the paramount consideration that children's safety, rights and best interests are upheld above all other considerations in all decisions, actions and practices.

2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

SCECS recognises its responsibility to ensure all children, educators and staff are well protected from the sun by using a combination of sun protection measures. These measures include:

- Accessing and monitoring the predicted UV index rating via the SunSmart App.
- Encouraging the use of a combination of sun protection strategies.
- Requiring educators to role model good sun-safe practices.

- Ensure children are supported to develop independent sun protection skills.
- Ensure educators consider the air temperature as well as UV rating when planning outdoor activities
- Ensure the outdoor environment is sun safe and provides shade for children and educators, and
- Ensuring families, educators and staff are informed about the service's sun protection policy.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Scheduling Outdoor Activities:

The service will use a combination of sun protection measures when UV Index levels reach 3 and above which can damage unprotected skin. This will include:

- Sun protection times are a forecast for the time-of-day UV levels will reach 3 or above. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types and the policy areas should be implemented. In NSW, UV levels are high enough (UV 3 or above) to damage unprotected skin most months of the year.
- UV levels and daily sun protection times are used to plan daily activities and ensure a correct understanding of local sun protection requirements.
- UV radiation exposure, shade levels and daily temperature are considered as part of a service's risk management and assessment for all outdoor events and activities on and off-site.
- When children are on excursions, all sun protection practices are planned, organised, understood and available.
- When UV levels reach 8 or above, educators will minimise children's time in direct sunlight and, where practicable, reschedule outdoor activities to cooler periods of the day or utilise shaded environments.
- When UV levels are extreme (11+), outdoor activities will be carefully risk-assessed and may be relocated indoors.

3.2 Shade:

The outdoor environment will reflect careful design and planning to ensure all outdoor learning experiences are planned within shaded areas.

The learning experiences will be moved throughout the day to take advantage of shade patterns.

The service will provide and maintain adequate shade for outdoor play. Shade options can include a combination of portable, natural and built shade structures. Priority will be given to areas where children play for extended periods such as sandpits

and fixed equipment.

Regular shade assessments will be conducted to monitor existing shade structures and assist in planning for additional shade, if applicable.

3.3 Hats:

Educators, staff and children are required to wear sun safe hats that protect their face, neck and ears. A sun safe hat is:

- Legionnaire hat,
- Bucket hat with a deep crown and brim size of at least 5cm (adults 6cm),
- Broad brimmed hat with a brim size of at least 6cm (child) and 7.5cm (adults).

Children without a sun safe hat (including caps) will be asked to apply sunscreen to ears and neck and to play in an area protected from the sun (e.g. under shade, veranda or indoors) or can be provided with a spare SunSmart hat if available.

3.4 Clothing:

When outdoors, educators, staff and children will wear sun safe clothing that covers as much of the skin (especially the shoulders, back and stomach) as possible. This includes wearing:

- Loose fitting shirts and dresses with sleeves and collars or covered neckline,
- Longer style skirts, shorts and trousers.

Children who are not wearing sun safe clothing will be encouraged to play in an area protected from the sun or provided with spare clothing if available.

Midriff, crop or singlet tops do not provide enough sun protection and therefore are not recommended. Parents may be requested to bring alternative clothing.

Clothing made from cool, densely woven fabric is recommended.

Tops with elbow length sleeves, higher necklines and collars and knee length or longer shorts and skirts are the ideal.

3.5 Sunscreen:

SPF50+ broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen will be available at the service throughout the session.

All staff and children will apply SPF50+ broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen before going outdoors and re-apply every 2 hours.

Where appropriate, children are encouraged and supported to apply sunscreen independently under the supervision of staff when appropriate.

Where children have allergies or sensitivity to the sunscreen, families will be asked to provide an alternative sunscreen or the child encouraged to play in the shade.

Sunscreen will be stored in a cool dry place and the expiry date monitored.

Where children enjoy an indoor / outdoor program, staff will need to be alert to the need to reapply sunscreen intermittently throughout the day.

3.6 Babies:

Babies under 12 months of age will not be exposed to direct sunlight when UV levels are 3 or higher.

Clothing, hats and shade positioning are checked regularly to ensure that babies will be well protected from UV.

The use of sunscreen on babies under 6 months is not recommended due to their sensitive skin. Small amounts of SPF50+ broad-spectrum water- resistant sunscreen may be applied to babies over 6 months of age.

4.0 PROGRAM AND PRACTICE

4.1 Role Modelling:

WH&S UV risk controls and role modelling, staff, families, and visitors demonstrate SunSmart behaviours when outside, including:

- Wearing a SunSmart hat, protective clothing, and wearing sunglasses (optional).
- Applying SPF50+ broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen.
- Promoting the use of shade.
- Discussing sun protection with children and demonstrating a positive and proactive approach to the management of sun protection in the service.
- Children are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures at the service.
- Sun safety is everyone's responsibility. By being role models ourselves and leading the way with our own sun safety, we can inspire our children to be SunSmart when they step outside.

4.2 Program:

Sun Protection is incorporated regularly within the learning program.

SunSmart App daily UV times are used to guide children and staff sun protection practices and strategies.

Children will be provided with opportunities to take leadership roles in managing sun protection practices within the services daily routines, including taking leadership roles in managing sun protection (e.g. accessing daily UV levels and sun protection times, hat reminders and management of sunscreen).

Children will learn to take effective sun protection actions and independently exercise these as part of their practice.

4.3 Families:

Families will be informed about the Sun Protection Policy, Procedures and requirements for managing sun protection at the service and on excursions.

Sun Protection information and resources will be provided and updated regularly for families.

Families will be encouraged to model sun safe behaviour and contribute to the services sun safe practices.

Families will be required to;

- Provide a sun protective hat that shades the face, neck and ears (e.g. wide brimmed, bucket or legionnaire style),
- Dress their child in appropriate clothing that covers as much skin as possible e.g. tops that cover the shoulders, arms and chest, collared shirts, longer style shorts,
- Provide permission for staff to apply SPF50+ broad-spectrum water- resistant sunscreen to all exposed parts of children's skin, including their face, necks, ears, arms or legs,
- Providing their own supply of hypoallergenic SPF50 sunscreen where an allergy to sunscreen has been identified. Provide permission for staff to apply the supplied sunscreen to all exposed parts of children's skin, including their face, necks, ears, arms or legs. The sunscreen is to be kept at the service and it is the responsibility of the family to make sure there is always an adequate supply available.

5.0. RESOURCES/REFRENECES

- Education and Care National Regulations and Law
<https://www.acecqa.gov.au/nqf/national-law-regulations/national-regulations>
- Cancer Council Australia - <https://www.cancer.org.au>
- Cancer Council NSW - <https://www.cancercouncil.com.au>

6.0. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

This policy will be monitored to ensure compliance with legislative requirements and unless deemed necessary through the identification of gaps, the service will review this policy every three years.

In accordance with R. 172 of the *Education and Care Services National Regulations*, the service will ensure that families of children enrolled in the service are notified at least 14 days before making any change to a policy or procedure that may have significant impact on the provision of education and care to any child enrolled at

the service; a family's ability to utilise the service; the fees charged or the way in which fees are collected.

The authorisation and amendment history for this document must be listed in the following table:

Version	Authorised by	Approval date	Sections modified
1	Approved Provider - SCECS Management	May 2020	New Policy
2	Pedagogy & Practice Manager	June 2021	Revised Policy
3	Pedagogy & Practice Manager	June 2022	Revised Policy
4	Operations Manager	September 2024	Revised Policy
5	COO	July 2026	Paramountcy consideration added. Air temperature is considered together with UV rating when planning outdoor activities. Procedures for UV rating 8 or above added. Parents may be requested to bring alternative clothes if children do not arrive in sun safe clothing. Sunscreen applied before going outside (20mins before removed). Inclusion of W.H.O. approach to sun safety for children with naturally dark skin and Vitamin D references removed. UV, shade levels and daily temperature are considered as part of a service's risk management and assessment for all outdoor events and activities on and off-site.