



Sun Protection

Purpose:	The purpose of this policy is to ensure that children attending are appropriately protected from the harmful effects of the sun and that sun protection behaviours are integrated into daily practice.	
Scope:	Children attending the kindergarten service, parents and employees, including full-time, part-time, permanent, fixed-term and casual employees, as well as contractors, volunteers and people undertaking work experience or vocational placements.	
Status:	DRAFT	Supersedes: All previous policies
Authorised by:	Dee Farquharson	Date of Authorisation: May 2022
References:	• Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland): Section 51(1)(a); 167 • Education and Care Services National Regulations: Regulations 114, 168(2)(a)(v) • National Quality Standard: Standard 2.3 – Element 2.3.2; 3.1 – Element 3.1.1 • Cancer Council Queensland • Cancer Council Queensland ECC SunSmart Policy • Guide to the National Quality Framework • www.sunsafety.qld.gov.au • Kidsafe Factsheet: Sun Exposure • Cancer Council SunSmart App • Sun safe clothing guide • River School Early Childhood Centre Sun Safe Procedure • River School Early Childhood Centre Health/Hygiene practices/procedures • River School Early Childhood Centre Excursions Policy • River School Early Childhood Centre Managing Medical Conditions Policy • River School Early Childhood Centre Supervision Policy • River School Early Childhood Centre Work Health & Safety Policy	
Review Date:	Every two years	Next Review Date: May 2024
Policy Owner:	AMEL Board	

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Policy Statement

Research indicates that childhood sun exposure is an important contributing factor to the development of skin cancer later in life. Given that children are in childcare during peak ultraviolet radiation (UVR) times throughout the day, early childhood environments play a major role in both minimising children's UVR exposure and providing an environment where policies and procedures can positively influence long-term behaviour. ([Cancer Council Queensland](#))

Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. The Cancer Council advises that it is the most common form of cancer in Australia, affecting all age groups. Cumulative exposure to the sun results in skin damage such as sunspots, moles, freckles, blemishes, premature aging and skin cancer so most skin damage and skin cancer is preventable. Winter sun also contributes to sun damage.

River School Early Childhood Centre recognises the importance of the health and safety of the children in our care and is committed to providing a safe and accountable procedure for sun protection of these children.

River School Early Childhood Centre's Sun Protection Policy demonstrates our commitment to ensuring that all our children are protected from the harmful effects of the UV radiation/the sun throughout the year and ensures sun protection behaviours are integrated into our daily planning and activities.

River School Early Childhood Centre will:

- Ensure provision and maintenance of adequate, variable and quality shaded areas
- Ensure that children and employees wear sun protective hats
- Where possible, plan outdoor daily activities outside of peak UV times
- Set up outdoor play activities in shaded areas and encourage our children to use these areas
- Require children and employees to wear sun protective clothing, where practical
- Ensure the use of SPF 30+, or higher, broad-spectrum, water-resistant and waterway safe sunscreen when provided by families
- Support the wearing of sunglasses by children and employees
- Include learning activities that promote sun protection

Definitions

Definitions relevant to this policy include:

Hat: for the purposes of appropriate sun protection at this service, a hat means one that covers the face, neck, and ears such as a broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaire style.

Sunscreen: sunscreen is SPF 30 or higher, broad spectrum and water resistant and waterway safe.

Sunglasses: preferably close-fitting, wrap-around sunglasses that meet Australian Standard AS4067

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Responsibilities

River School Early Childhood Centre

River School Early Childhood Centre has the following role and responsibilities:

- Embed sun safe practices in the service's daily routine and remain aware of current views about sun safe practices in relation to children's health safety and welfare
- Ensure procedures are in place to support sun safe behaviours by children, families, employees and visitors
- Consider shade availability and sun safe practice when planning outdoor events and excursions
- Ensure parents/carers have indicated on Enrolment form, any allergies or cultural requirements that may affect sun safe behaviours
- Request families provide appropriate sunscreen for their individual child
- Address needs of parents of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and their children to ensure sun safety is understood and alternatives provided if necessary.
- Ensure educators receive appropriate information and training to fulfil their roles effectively with regards to sun protection and sun safe practice

Educators

Educators of River School Early Childhood Centre have the following role and responsibilities:

- Be aware of and act in accordance with River School Early Childhood Centre's Sun Protection Policy, sun safe procedures and practices
- Model and demonstrate sun safe behaviour
- Encourage children to use available shade

Families

Families at River School Early Childhood Centre have the following role and responsibilities:

- Apply sunscreen to their child prior to attending the centre or immediately upon arrival and advise centre staff sunscreen has been applied
- Be aware of and act in accordance with River School Early Childhood Centre's Sun Protection Policy, sun safe procedures and practices
- Provide accurate and up to date information on their child's enrolment form
- Comply with the service sunscreen application procedure.

Implementation

River School Early Childhood Centre will implement the following measures in order to ensure children and employees are protected adequately from the sun, and that sun safe behaviours are embedded into everyday practice:

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- Awareness - regularly raise awareness of all aspects of sun protection, including the development and implementation of this Policy
- Training – provide educators with access to appropriate training and up to date information on sun protection and sun safe practices
- Record keeping, monitoring, reporting – keep appropriate records, monitor and report on sun safe practice within the service in line with the service's sun safe procedures and health and hygiene procedures.
- Use a combination of these five steps:



Slip on protective clothing

- When outdoors, all children will wear sun protective clothing that protects as much of the skin as possible. Suitable clothing includes collars, elbow length sleeves and knee length or longer style shorts and skirts.
- If providing water play within the service, we will ensure that children wear materials such as Lycra, which stay sun protective when wet.
- Children without appropriate clothing will remain protected from the sun.

Slop on SPF30 or higher broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen

- The sunscreen provided by families should be broad spectrum, water resistant and waterway safe.
Sunscreen should not be used to increase the amount of time spent in the sun and should always be used with other forms of protection. Apply sunscreen liberally to clean, dry skin at least 20 minutes before going outside and reapply as directed on the sunscreen container or more frequently if washed or wiped off.
- To help develop independent skills ready for school, children from three years of age are given opportunities to apply their own sunscreen under supervision of staff and are encouraged to do so.
- Sunscreen will be stored in a cool place, out of the sun.
- Staff will monitor the expiry date of sunscreen and discard when out of date.

Slap on a hat

- All children will wear a wide brim, bucket or legionnaires style hat that protects the face, neck, ears, and crown of the head whenever they are outside or on an excursion. Hats should be encouraged and worn by all team members, visitors, and children within the service.
- Children without hats will remain protected from the sun.

Seek shade (also incorporates Quality Area 3- Physical Environment)

- Children will be actively encouraged to use shade for outdoor play activity.
- Outdoor activities will be planned to occur in shaded areas where possible.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all outdoor activities.

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Slide on some sunglasses

Close-fitting wrap-around sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard AS 1067 will be encouraged.

Compliance and Monitoring

In line with the *Education and Care Service National Regulations*, River School Early Childhood Centre will ensure that:

- Copies of this policy and any related procedures are readily accessible and available for inspection by the Nominated Supervisor, employees and families, and
- Parents of children enrolled at the service are notified at least 14 days before the service makes any change to a policy or procedure that may have a significant impact on the service's provision of education and care to any child enrolled at the service or the family's ability to utilise the service

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