



Sunsafe

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety

Relevant Legislation

Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) ACT 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011: Section 167, Regulations 100, 113, 114, 116, 168 - 172

National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care: Element: 2.2.1, 3.1, 3.2.1, 6.1.3, 7.1.2

(See also SunSmart Program for Childcare Services – retrieved from the NSW Cancer Council website May 2013; UV and Sun protection services, retrieved from the Bureau of Meteorology website May 2013)

Aim / Rationale

Yass Montessori Pre-School is committed to providing children with a safe environment that provides shade and other sun protection to support their learning and opportunities for play.

Policy Goals

The Pre-School will follow best practice guidelines to protect children, family members educators and staff from the damaging effects of sun exposure.

Our Pre-School will be a registered SunSmart service

Strategies / Procedures: What will we do?

- ✧ The safety, health and wellbeing of children is our number one priority. Our educators and staff implement policies and procedures to protect children from UV radiation from the sun, as well as burns from exposure to surfaces heated by the sun.

- ✧ UV levels are monitored using the SunSmart app, if and when the UV reach 3 or above sun protection is recommended for all skin types and the policy areas should be implemented. In NSW, UV levels are high enough (3 or above) to damage unprotected skin most months of the year.
- ✧ UV levels and daily sun protection times are considered when planning daily activities and adhere to correct sun protection requirements.
- ✧ UV radiation exposure is considered as a part of our risk management and assessment for all outdoor activities on and off site.
- ✧ When children are on excursions all sun protection practices are planned, organised, understood and available.
- ✧ Outdoor play experiences are an important part of our children’s healthy growth, learning, wellbeing and development. We ensure that the outdoor environment offers the required shade and other sun protection measures are implemented by the educators.
- ✧ We create opportunities for children to learn and develop, and this includes incorporating sun protection awareness into the program.
- ✧ Our educators and staff role model quality educational practices, including sun safe practices.
- ✧ We encourage involvement by families in our educational program and see them as valuable partners in promoting the importance of sun protection.
- ✧ As part of 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 SPF30 (or higher) 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.
 - 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.

The Approved Provider will:

- ✧ Ensure that obligations under the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations are met.
- ✧ Take reasonable steps to ensure that the nominated supervisor, educators and staff follow the policy and procedures.
- ✧ Ensure adequate shading over areas for both active and passive outdoor play.
- ✧ Ensure access to an adequate supply of in-date sunscreen for children, educators and staff.
- ✧ Ensure that copies of the policy and procedures are readily accessible to nominated supervisors, coordinators, educators, staff, volunteers and families, and available for inspection.
- ✧ Notify families at least 14 days before changing the policy or procedures if the changes will:
 - affect the fees charged or the way they are collected or

significantly impact the service's education and care of children or significantly impact the family's ability to utilise the service.

The Nominated Supervisor will:

- ✧ Implement the Sunsafes policy and procedures, ensuring all action plans that are in place are carried out.
- ✧ Monitor the UVI daily, identify when and how any sun protection changes need to occur, and communicate this to educators and staff.
- ✧ Promote sun safe practices with all children, families, educators and staff within the Pre-School.
- ✧ Sun protection is incorporated regularly into learning programs. Children understand why sun safety is important and learn how to take effective sun protection, including taking leadership roles in managing sun protection e.g., accessing daily UV levels and sun protection times, hat reminders and management of sunscreen
- ✧ SunSmart App daily UV times are promoted to guide staff, parents and children behaviour.

Educators will:

- ✧ Implement the Sunsafes policy and procedures.
- ✧ Monitor the UVI daily and manage outdoor play and learning accordingly.
- ✧ Monitor the impact of sun on play equipment and surfaces that children will be touching and using such as soft fall mats, sandpit, etc.
- ✧ Role-model sun safe practices.
- ✧ Communicate with families about sun safe practices in general and specific expectations within the service (e.g. wearing protective clothing).
- ✧ Incorporate sun protection into learning programs.
- ✧ Educators to apply sunscreen (50+) 20 minutes before going outdoors and re-apply every two hours.
- ✧ Children and staff are required to wear SunSmart clothing that covers as much skin (especially the shoulders, back and stomach) as possible.
- ✧ Children and staff who are not wearing sun safe clothing will be provided with spare clothing that meets the suggested sun safe clothing requirements or encouraged to play/stay in an area protected from the sun eg under shade, veranda or indoors.
- ✧ Educators, staff and children are required to wear sun safe hats eg: legionnaire hat, bucket hat and children without a sun safe hat will be asked to play in an area protected from the sun.
- ✧ All sunscreen is stored in a cool, dry place and the expiry dates monitored, sunscreen supplied by families are labelled correctly with children's name and families are advised if a new sunscreen is required when getting low.

Families will:

- ✧ Be aware of and follow the Sunsafes policy and procedures.
- ✧ Send children to the Pre-School in appropriate clothing that offers sun protection.

SunSmart clothing includes wearing:

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

- Midriff, crop or singlet tops do not provide enough sun protection and therefore are not recommended.

- ✧ Apply sunscreen, during summer months, before child attends Pre-School.
- ✧ Where children have allergies or sensitivity to the sunscreen, parents are asked to provide an alternative sunscreen, or the child encouraged to play in the shade.
- ✧ Cancer Council recommends usage tests before applying a new sunscreen.

Children Will:

- ✧ Children understand why sun safety is important and learn how to take effective sun protection, including taking leadership roles in managing sun protection e.g., accessing daily UV levels and sun protection times, hat reminders and management of sunscreen

Evaluation

- ✧ Yass Montessori Pre-School is a registered Sun Smart Service.
- ✧ Educators and children wear suitable clothing and make use of the large amounts of shade provided in the outdoor playground.
- ✧ Sun exposure is limited throughout the day in accordance with Cancer Council recommendations.
- ✧ The curriculum and learning experiences are provided to promote sun safety awareness.

Links to other policies

Enrolment	Child Safe Code of Conduct
Child Protection	Interactions with Children
Statement of Commitment to Child	Medical Conditions
Child Safe Environment	Excursions
Water Safety	Governance and Management

Sources and References

Cancer Council Australia – Shade for early childhood services

Cancer Council Australia – SunSmart schools and early childhood programs

DEEWR (2009). Belonging Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia

DEEWR child Care Services Handbook 2011-2012. (Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations)

ACECQA – Sun Protection Guidelines

Policy Reviewed

Modifications

Next Review Date

2011

Developed

2013

February 2018	Reviewed	February 2021
October 2023	Changes to the NQF <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>rewording of policy</i>- <i>improve the safety and wellbeing of children</i>- <i>addition of risk minimisation</i>	October 2025 or when procedure, practice, or legislation changes
July 2024	Changes recommended by SunSmart	July 2026 or when procedure, practice, or legislation changes

Person/s responsible for policy

Director / Administrator