

Clothing and Footwear for children and educators

Introduction

Children and educators need protective, comfortable and appropriate clothing and footwear to explore their environments. Clothing and footwear must protect children from injury and sun exposure while promoting self-help abilities. Appropriate clothing and footwear will fit a child correctly and ensure comfort and adequate movement. Educators will also dress professionally, whilst ensuring they are preventing injury and sun exposure.

Goals / What are we going to do?

The education and care service will:

- ▶ Develop and maintain a sun protection policy.
- ▶ Follow the guidelines set by Cancer Council Australia to reduce UV exposure throughout the year.
- ▶ Ensure that educators and children wear appropriate clothing for the weather conditions, environment and social/cultural circumstances.
- ▶ Support children at all times of the day by guiding them to apply sunscreen, wear appropriate clothing, including hats and footwear (as required) following the service philosophy and the rights of the child.
- ▶ Inform families about suitable clothing for play experiences, sun protection and safety.
- ▶ Respect cultural differences and individual family and educator needs when recommending suitable clothing.

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Strategies / How will it be done?

The philosophy of the education and care service will guide educator interactions and practices by providing a vision, a purpose and meaningful direction regarding the implementation of this policy with children, educators and families..

The approved provider will:

- ▶ Ensure that a sun protection policy is developed and maintained.
- ▶ Ensure that educators are provided with personal protective equipment (e.g. gloves, for applying sun screen).

The nominated supervisor will:

- ▶ Provide information for educators about suitable clothing and footwear expectations for the education and care work environment.
- ▶ Ensure that families are aware of the requirements for appropriate clothing, including hats and footwear upon enrolment.
- ▶ Ensure educators are aware of the sun protection policy.
- ▶ Provide information for families about suitable clothing and footwear. This information will also be available at the education and care service using a variety of communication strategies including newsletters, brochures, websites and posters.

Educators will:

- ▶ Allow barefoot play when conditions are safe and appropriate.
- ▶ Monitor children's clothing and footwear to ensure compliance with the Sun Protection Policy and to support the safety, comfort and well-being 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.
- ▶ Encourage children to remove shoes and heavy/ excess layers of clothing during rest times and to reflect the room temperature, as recommended practice by Red Nose and Kidsafe.
- ▶ Encourage children to utilise their self help skills as appropriate to put on and remove clothing and shoes to meet their needs.

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LINKS TO:

- ▶ Education and Care Services National Regulations: 106, 168
- ▶ National Quality Standards/Elements: 2.1, 2.1.1, 2.2, 4.2, 4.2.2, 5.1.2

LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES

- ▶ Excursions
- ▶ Enrolment and orientation
- ▶ Code of conduct for staff members
- ▶ Sun Protection

Families will be encouraged to:

- ▶ Provide spare clothing in children's bags to allow for dirty or soiled clothing and changing weather conditions. Spare clothing will be available at the education and care service for emergency clothing needs.
- ▶ Dress children appropriately.



STATUTORY LEGISLATION & CONSIDERATIONS

- ▶ Education and Care Services National Regulations
- ▶ ACECQA's Guide to the National Quality Framework



SOURCES

- ▶ Red Nose - <https://rednose.org.au>
- ▶ Cancer Council Australia - www.cancer.org.au
- ▶ Podiatry Care - www.podiatrycare.com.au
- ▶ Raising Children Network - www.raisingchildren.net.au
- ▶ CELA - www.cela.org.au/publications/amplify!-blog/nov-2023/the-pros-and-cons-of-going-barefoot-ecec

This is a sample policy only. Community Early Learning Australia (CELA) considers this form to satisfy what is required under the Education and Care Services National Regulations and has taken all care in compiling this information. We have done this on the understanding that all members undertake responsibility for assessing the relevance and accuracy of the content for their service's situation.

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