Clothing and Footwear

1. Policy Statement

Children need protective, comfortable and appropriate clothing and footwear to explore their environments. Clothing needs to protect children from injury and sun exposure while promoting self-help abilities. Appropriate footwear will fit a child’s foot correctly and ensure comfort. Educators will also dress to prevent injury and sun exposure and will be encouraged to dress in a professional and respectful manner.

2. Legislative Requirements

Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law 2011

The NSW Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and the NSW Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
106, 168

Link to National Quality Standards 2010

2.1.2 Each child’s health needs are supported.

2.3.2 Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury.

4.2. Educators, co-ordinators and staff members are respectful and ethical.

4.2.1 Professional standards guide practice, interactions and relationships.

5.2.3 The dignity and rights of every child are maintained at all times.

3. Who is affected by this policy?

a) Children
b) Parents
c) Staff
d) Management

4. Implementation

The Approved Provider will:

A. Ensure that a sun protection policy is developed and maintained.

B. Ensure that educators are provided with personal protective equipment (e.g. gloves, goggles etc.) to facilitate cleaning and health protection measures.

The Nominated Supervisor will:

A. Provide information for educators about suitable clothing and footwear expectations for the education and care work environment, which will ensure that feet are fully protected, that clothing covers shoulders thighs and torso fully covered.

B. Ensure staff hair is tied back when working with the children

C. Ensure educators are aware of the sun protection policy.

D. 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:

A. Consult with families about the individual needs of children with respect to different values and beliefs associated with clothing and footwear.

B. 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.

C. 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.

D. Provide protective clothing, such as aprons, for messy play experiences. Children will be encouraged by educators to wear protective clothing during messy and water play.

E. Encourage children to remove shoes and heavy/excess layers of clothing during rest times and to reflect the room temperature, as recommended practice by SIDS and Kids.

F. Encourage children to utilise their self help skills as appropriate to put on and remove clothing and shoes to meet their needs. For younger children, educators will use observation and monitoring skills to ensure children’s clothing and footwear is appropriate for the environment and weather conditions.

Families will be encouraged to:

A. 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.

B. Ensure children wear an endorsed Sun Smart Hat style which includes:

   a) Broad brimmed hat – brim size of at least 6cm or
   b) Legionnaire hat or
   c) Bucket style hat with a brim size of at least 5 cm ad a deep crown
C. Avoid dressing children in clothing that:
   a) Presents a potential choking hazard, such as jumpers with cords or capes as these can become caught on climbing equipment
   b) Are difficult for the child to use independently, such as overalls/belts

The Licensee/Director/Supervisor will ensure that this policy is maintained and implemented at all times.

5. Sources

   • SIDS and Kids – www.sidsandkids.org
   • Cancer Council Australia - www.cancer.org.au
   • Podiatry Care – www.podiatrycare.com.au
   • Raising Children Network - http://raisingchildren.net.au
   • Health and Safety in Children’s Centres: Model Policies and Practices (2nd ed.)

6. Review

The policy will be reviewed annually. Review will be conducted by management, employees, parents and any interested parties.

Reviewed: 24.08.12