

Sun Protection - Preschool

Reference and Key Text

Education (Early Childhood Services) Regulations 2008, 46 Health and Safety Practices standard general:

- 1(a): requires every licensed service provider to whom this regulation applies to take all reasonable steps to promote the good health and safety of children enrolled in the service.

The Queenstown Pre-School Sun Protection policy has been developed to ensure that all children attending the Centre are protected from skin damage caused by harmful UV rays of the sun.

The policy is to be implemented throughout the year but with particular emphasis in summer.

A "Sun un-safe day" is a day between the months of November and March when there is either no cloud or some cloud cover.

(Note: clouds often do not afford much protection from solar radiation).

As part of our policy from last week in September till the end of March:

- 1) The Centre will require children to wear hats whenever they are outside; if they have no hat on they stay inside. The hat should have a brim, which will protect their face, neck, and ears.
- 2) The Management Committee will ensure there are sufficient number of shelters and trees providing shade in areas where the children congregate, such as the sandpit, water tray etc.
- 3) Staff will act as role models by:
 - wearing appropriate hats and clothing
 - using a sunscreen for skin protection.
- 4) A SPF 30+ (minimum) broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen will be provided for staff and children's use, and will be applied to children after lunch, and after afternoon tea break. Parents are asked to apply sunscreen to their child before they bring them to the Centre.
- 5) If for medical reasons a parent does not want their child to have sunscreen applied they will be expected to dress the child in appropriate clothing e.g. long sleeves or otherwise the child will not be allowed outside.

- 6) Staff and parents will be provided with educational material on sun protection.
- 7) The Sun smart policy will be reinforced in a positive way through newsletters, at parent meetings, and the centre notice board.
- 8) Children will be provided with drinks at all meal times, and any other time they request them.
- 9) On very hot days, activities will be planned so the children are indoors between 12 and 2. This will be at the discretion of the Head Teacher.
- 10) Opportune moments will be used to teach children why the skin needs protection from the sun and how to protect it.
- 11) The Centre will look at purchasing, and on selling, hats with a brim that will give the children good sun protection, that the children will keep at the Centre.

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Reviewed June 2002

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Next Review: September 2012

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