

Skin Protection Policy

*Date: March 2017
Review date: April 2019*

Rationale

At Grove Kindergarten we believe that all children and staff have a right to a safe and secure environment.

Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world, with one out of every two people developing some form of skin cancer in their lifetime. Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Much of the damage occurs during childhood and adolescence. Research suggests that severe sunburn is a contributor to skin cancer and other forms of skin damage such as wrinkles, sunspots, blemished skin and premature ageing. Most skin damage is, therefore preventable.

We believe that the incidence of skin cancer and the number of related deaths can be reduced by encouraging all members of the community to take effective skin-protection measures.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Promote positive attitudes towards skin protection.
- Ensure that all children attending our centre are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun.
- Raise awareness of the potential damage that exposure to the sun can cause, in particular between 10am and 3pm.
- Encourage personal responsibility for skin protection.

Implementation

This policy is for implementation throughout the whole year with particular emphasis in Terms 1, 3 and 4 or when the UV levels are **three** or above (ultraviolet radiation levels in spring and autumn can still be very high.)

All members of the Grove Kindergarten programs will be strongly encouraged to use the following skin protection strategies:

Hats

- Wearing hats outside is compulsory in Terms 1, 3 and 4 or whenever UV levels are three or above.
- Hat wearing will be modelled by staff and volunteers to comply with the policy.
- Children, staff and parents will be expected to wear a broad brimmed or legionnaire style hat whenever they are involved in outside activities.

Shade

- Avoid being in the direct sun between the hours of 10am and 3pm.
- Outdoor activities set up in shaded areas where possible.

- Use the shade of trees, pergolas, umbrellas and tents whenever outdoors.
- The further provision of shade areas will appear as a priority on any forward planning documents for the centre.

Clothing

- Wear appropriate clothing which protects the skin.
- Children will be encouraged to wear t-shirts with collars or long sleeve tops and longer style shorts/skirts.

Sunscreen

- Grove Kindergarten encourages the use of a broad spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of at least 50+
- Parents will be encouraged to apply sunscreen to their children before coming to the centre.
- Parents are asked to provide a named roll-on sunscreen (to be retained at kindergarten) for children to use before outside play in the afternoon. Children are encouraged to be independent in applying the sunscreen however staff will supervise and assist where necessary.

Curriculum

- Reinforcing the Sun Smart message in all centre activities and in general centre procedures is an important strategy in the adoption of the skin protection behaviours.
- Staff will be encouraged to role model appropriate Sun Smart strategies in all activities.
- Skin cancer prevention will be included in appropriate teaching activities.
- Staff will be encouraged to keep up to date with new information and resources through contact with the Anti-Cancer Foundation’s Resource Centre.

The Grove Kindergarten Skin Protection Policy will be evaluated on an ongoing basis by staff and parents.

Document Review History

Date	Approved by Governing Council
September 2015	2015 review
July 2016	2016 review
March 2017	2017 review, amendments referring to Terms 1,3 and 4 in line with DECD Inclement Weather & Sun Protection Procedure
April 2018	2018 review

Sources: Cancer Council Sun Smart
 DECD Inclement Weather & Sun Protection Procedure