

Rationale

SDN recognises that it has a role in promoting sun safety practices for children, families and staff, and recognises its obligation to contribute to the health and wellbeing of children and staff through managing healthy balance of ultraviolet radiation exposure.

'A balance of ultraviolet radiation (UV) exposure is important for health. Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Exposure to the sun's UV during childhood and adolescence is associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life. Sun exposure in the first 10 years of life is a major factor in determining future skin cancer risk. Too little UV from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. Vitamin D is essential for healthy bones and muscles, and for general health' (Cancer Council Australia).

Scope

This policy, and its associated documents, applies to the entirety of SDN Children's Services and the entirety of its wholly owned subsidiaries.

This policy applies to SDN services in NSW and ACT. All SDN services will provide children with sunscreen, of at least SPF30. In the event that a child is allergic to the particular sunscreen used at our services, the family will provide an alternative in the original packaging (refer to *Children with Medical Conditions and Illness Policy* and its Procedures).

Policy

SDN services will follow best practice guidelines in accordance with recommendations from the recognised health authorities in order to protect children, family members and staff from the damaging effects of the sun's UV exposure. Please refer to *UV (Sun) Protection Procedure*.

SDN will plan and organise environments to balance UV exposure as this is important for health. This will ensure that all children and staff members will have some UV exposure for Vitamin D.

Planned experiences about sun protection, sun exposure and vitamin D will be incorporated into the SDN learning and educational program.

A combination of sun protection measures will be used for all outdoor activities, such as clothing, hats, shade and sunscreen.

All sun protection measures will be considered when planning excursions.

SDN will support families through the provision of up to date information about sun exposure.

All Educators will be aware of their Work Health and Safety responsibilities and duty of care when it comes to working safely outdoors.

Approved by Senior Leadership Team	Approval Date April 2022	Review Date April 2026	Page 1 of 2
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Management and staff regularly monitor and review how effectively they implement their sun protection policy.

Each of our services will be awarded and maintain a Cancer Council’s national SunSmart status – ie via membership to Cancer Council’s National SunSmart Early Childhood Program. Sun protection policies must be updated and submitted to Cancer Council NSW every three years to maintain current SunSmart status.

Related SDN Documents

Policies

- GI-HLP-1.07: Providing a Child Safe Physical Environment
- GI-OP-1.14: Communication with Families
- SD-HLP-2.03: Educational Program and Practice
- SD-OP-2.14: Children with Medical Conditions and Illness

Procedures

- SD-PRO-2.14-01: Children with Medical Conditions and Illness
- SD-PRO-2.14-02: Administration of Medication to Children
- SD-PRO-2.16-01: UV (Sun) Protection

Relevant Legislation/Regulations

- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
- Education and Care Services National Regulations, regulations 110, 113, 114 and 168 (2)(a)(iii)
- Schedule1: National Quality Standard, quality areas 2 and 3, standard 2.1 to 2.3 and 3.1, elements 2.1.3, 2.2.1, 2.3.2 and 3.1.1.

Other References/Related Documents

- Cancer Council NSW and ACT
- SunSmart Victoria – www.sunsmart.com.au

SUN PROTECTION POLICY		SD-OP-2.16	
Approved by Senior Leadership Team	Approval Date April 2022	Review Date April 2026	Page 2 of 2