



## Glandore Community Kindergarten's SunSmart / sun protection policy: Approved December 2022

This policy applies to all service events on and off-site.

### Rationale

The sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation can't be seen or felt. Whatever the weather, it's important for people of all skin types to use sun protection whenever UV levels are three or higher.

Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, with two in three Australians developing some form of skin cancer before age 70. Infants and toddlers up to four years of age are particularly vulnerable to UV damage due to lower levels of melanin and a thinner stratum corneum (the outermost layer of skin). UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in life.

By teaching sensible sun protection habits from an early age and implementing sun protection measures, early childhood services can play a significant role in reducing skin cancer risk.

### Purpose

This SunSmart policy provides guidelines to:

- ensure all children, educators and staff are protected from over-exposure to UV radiation;
- ensure the outdoor environment provides shade for children, educators and staff;
- ensure children are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills;
- support duty of care and regulatory requirements; and
- support appropriate OH&S strategies to minimise UV risk and associated harms for educators, staff and visitors.

### Procedures

- To assist with the implementation of this policy, educators and children are encouraged to access and display the local sun protection times (available from the SunSmart widget on the service's website, the free SunSmart app or at [sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au)). *The sun protection times are a forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology for the time of day UV levels are forecast to reach 3 and above.*
- The sun protection measures listed below are used for all outdoor activities **during the daily local sun protection times**.

### Environment

#### Seek shade

- Management makes sure there are enough shelters and trees providing shade in the outdoor area particularly in high-use areas.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning all outdoor activities.
- Children are encouraged to choose and use available areas of shade when outside.
- In consultation with the service's committee, shade provision is considered in future plans and upgrades.
- A shade assessment is conducted regularly to determine the current availability and quality of shade.
- Children who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing are asked to choose a shady play space or a suitable area protected from the sun.

### Behaviours

#### Slip on sun-protective clothing

- Children wear loose-fitting clothing that covers as much skin as possible. Clothing made from cool, densely woven fabric is recommended. Families are asked to choose tops with elbow-length sleeves, higher necklines (or collars) and knee-length or longer style shorts, skirts and dresses for their child. If a child is wearing a singlet top or shoestring dress, they will be asked to choose a t-shirt/shirt to wear over this before going outdoors.

#### Slap on a sun protective hat

- All children and educators wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears (legionnaire, broad-brimmed or bucket style). Caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative.
- Children without a sun protective hat are provided with a spare hat where possible.



### Slop on sunscreen

- SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen is supplied by the service and/or families.
- Sunscreen is applied in accordance with the manufacturer's directions (applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours, or more frequently if sweating or swimming).
- To help develop independent skills ready for school, children from three years of age are given opportunities to apply their own sunscreen under supervision of staff, and are encouraged to do so.
- Sunscreen is stored in a supervised, cool place, out of the sun. The expiry date is monitored.

### Slide on sunglasses [if practical]

- Where practical children wear close-fitting, wrap-around sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard 1067 (Sunglasses: Category 2, 3 or 4) and cover as much of the eye area as possible.

### Learning and skills

- Sun protection is incorporated into the learning and development program.
- The SunSmart policy is reinforced by educators and through children's activities and displays.
- Educators, staff and families are provided with information about sun protection through family newsletters, service handbook, noticeboards and the service's website.



When enrolling their child, families are:

- informed of the service's SunSmart policy;
- are provided with a suitable sun protective hat,
- asked to send their children in covering clothing
- able to supply sunscreen for their child if they do not wish to use the sunscreen supplied by the kindergarten.
- required to give permission for educators to apply sunscreen to their child; and
- encouraged to use SunSmart measures themselves when at the service.

### OHS

As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, educators, staff and visitors:

- wear a suitable sun-protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses;
- apply sunscreen; and
- seek shade whenever possible.

### Monitoring and review

- All staff, including management and educators, monitor and review the effectiveness of the SunSmart policy and revise the policy when required (at least once every three years) by completing a policy review and membership renewal with SunSmart at [sunsmart.com.au](https://sunsmart.com.au).
- The SunSmart policy is available to staff, families and visitors. **Next policy review: December 2025**

*Please note: Certain health conditions and medications mean some people are more sensitive to UV radiation and need to use sun protection at all times regardless of the UV levels. Please make sure your policy includes the particular needs of these children and staff at your service. For further information visit [Risk factors for skin cancer](#).*

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