

SHARE Co-Operative Society Ltd.

Before, After and Vacation Care.

Policy	UV/Sun Smart/Sun Safe	
Reviewed	July 2024	Next review: July 2025
Policy Statement:		
<p>SHARE is committed to providing children with a safe environment that provides shade and other sun protection to support their learning and opportunities for play, at the same time acknowledging that vitamin D sourced from the sun is a crucial factor in keeping bones and muscles strong and healthy. Educators are to model appropriate sun behaviours and ensure that the sun smart, sun safe policy and all procedures are always adhered to.</p> <p>Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Skin cancer, including melanoma and non-melanoma, is the most common cancer in Australia. Exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation in childhood is a major risk factor for the development of skin cancer later in life.</p> <p>By implementing a best-practice Sun Protection Policy, Early Childhood Education and Care Services can help protect staff and children from UV radiation and teach children good sun protection habits from an early age to reduce their risk. Sun protection times are a forecast for the time-of-day UV levels will reach 3 or above. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types and the policy areas should be implemented. In NSW, UV levels are high enough (UV 3 or above) to damage unprotected skin most months of the year. UV levels are particularly high during the summer months and highest in the middle of the day. UV levels and daily sun protection times can be accessed via the SunSmart App or Cancer Council Australia's home page or SHARE's website to determine sun protection requirements.</p>		

PRINCIPLES INFORMING THIS POLICY

- The safety, health and wellbeing of children is our number one priority. Our educators and staff implement policies and procedures to protect children from UV radiation from the sun, as well as burns from exposure to surfaces heated by the sun.
- Outdoor play experiences are an important part of our children's healthy growth, learning, wellbeing and development. We ensure that the outdoor environment offers the required shade and other sun protection measures are implemented by the educators.
- We create opportunities for children to learn and develop, and this includes incorporating sun protection awareness into the program.
- Our educators and staff role model quality educational practices, including sun safe practices.
- We encourage involvement by families in our educational program and see them as valuable partners in promoting the importance of sun protection.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD

Quality Area 1: Educational program and practice.

PROCEDURES:

Programming for outdoor activities.

UV levels and daily sun protection are used to plan daily activities and ensure a correct understanding of local sun protection requirements.

Sun protection is included in service participation risk assessments, including excursions where sun protection practices are planned, organised, understood and available.

Educators when planning for outdoor activities will consider:

- Time of year that the activity will take place.
- Time of day that the activity will take place.

The UV is to be checked before any outdoor activities take place.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and safety

PROCEDURES:

Hats

- **Educators-**
Are to wear the hats provided by SHARE. These have been purchased from the Cancer Council in line with the Cancer Council's recommendations. These hats have a wide brim that protect the face and neck.
- **Children Term Time-**
Are to wear their school hats outside when the UV index is above 3. Children without a school hat are to play inside or in the shade of the veranda until the UV drops below 3.
- **Children Vacation Care-**
During all vacation care programs, children are to wear a "Red Hat" supplied by SHARE when outside and on excursion. This Red hat is to be worn even if the UV is below 3, as the hat serves a dual purpose of protecting children from the sun and as a form of identification. It is the legionnaire style and children are reminded to always have the flap at the back down and not tucked into the hat.

Clothing:

- **Educators-**
To wear clothing that covers as much of the skin as possible.
- **Children-**
 - *Term Time:* School uniform to be worn either shorts, long pants, skort, polo shirt or school dress, hat.
 - *Vacation care:* Parents are reminded to dress their child appropriately for the weather and for any excursions that they will be attending. Children dressed inappropriately for hot weather will be required to play either inside or in the shade of the veranda. Midriff, crop, or singlet tops do not provide enough sun protection and therefore not recommend for children who wish to play outside.

Sunscreen:

Australian Cancer Council recommends usage tests before applying a new sunscreen. All sunscreen is stored in a cool, dry place and the expiry dates monitored. Cancer Council recommends using sunscreen every day on days when the UV index is forecast to be above 3: on these days, sunscreen is applied prior to the children walking to school, and applied prior to leaving school in the afternoons.

- **Educators and children-**
SHARE has available SPF30 or higher broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen. Application of sunscreen is dependent on the UV index.

Educators and children are encouraged to apply sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapply every 2 hours.

Educators are to ensure that all children when being collected from school have had sunscreen applied.

Educators are to ensure that all children have applied sunscreen during vacation care time and re-applied every 2 hours.

*Permission to apply sunscreen is included in the service enrolment form. Where children have allergies or sensitivity to the sunscreen, parents are asked to provide an alternative sunscreen, or the child encouraged to play in the shade.

Families are to ensure sunscreen is applied prior to attending vacation care.

Sunglasses:

Staff and children are encouraged to wear close-fitting wrap-around sunglasses that cover as much of the eye area as possible and comply with Australian Standard AS1067 (Sunglasses: Category 2, 3 or 4)

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD

Quality Area 3: Physical environment

PROCEDURES:

- The availability of shade is considered for all outdoor activities and excursions.
- Shade options are provided, maintained, and promoted to the children.
- Activities and play spaces are set up and moved throughout the day to take advantage of shade patterns.
- Outdoor play equipment is checked to ensure that is suitable for playing and will not heat burn children who use it.
- Shade options can include a combination of portable, natural, and built shade.
- Regular shade assessments and the monitoring of existing shade structures, to assist in planning for additional shade.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD

Quality Area 5: Relationships with children

PROCEDURES:

As part of WH&S UV risk controls and role modelling, staff, families, and visitors demonstrate SunSmart behaviours when outside, including:

- Wearing a SunSmart hat, protective clothing, and wearing sunglasses (optional).
- Applying SPF30 or higher broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen.
- Promoting the use of shade.
- Discussing sun protection with children and demonstrating a positive and proactive approach to the management of sun protection in the service.

Children are provided with opportunities to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole school community, including taking leadership roles in managing sun protection e.g., accessing daily UV levels and sun protection times, hat reminders and management of sunscreen.

Children understand why sun safety is important and learn how to take effective sun protection actions.

‘Sun safety is everyone’s responsibility. By being role models ourselves and leading the way with our own sun safety, we can inspire our children to be SunSmart when they step outside’.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD

Quality Area 6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities.

PROCEDURES

Sun protection policy, procedures, requirements, and updates are made available to staff, families and visitors.

Sun protection information and resources are accessible and communicated regularly to families.

All parents/families are informed of the sun protection policy including appropriate hat, clothing and sunscreen requirements on enrolling their child/ren in the service or vacation care.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD

Quality Area 7: Governance and leadership

PROCEDURES

Management regularly monitors and reviews how effectively they implement their sun protection policy, including an annual formal review.

SUMMARY OF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Roles	Responsibilities
Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ensure that obligations under the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations are met• take reasonable steps to ensure that the nominated supervisor, educators and staff follow the policy and procedures• centre-based services: ensure adequate shading over areas for both active and passive outdoor play• ensure access to an adequate supply of in-date sunscreen for children, educators and staff• ensure that copies of the policy and procedures are readily accessible to nominated supervisors, coordinators, educators, staff, volunteers and families, and available for inspection• notify families at least 14 days before changing the policy or procedures if the changes will:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– affect the fees charged or the way they are collected or– significantly impact the service’s education and care of children or– significantly impact the family’s ability to utilise the service
Nominated Supervisor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• implement the Sun protection policy and procedures, ensuring all action plans that are in place are carried out• monitor the UVI daily, identify when and how any sun protection changes need to occur, and communicate this to educators and staff• promote sun safe practices with all children, families, educators and staff within the service
Educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• implement the Sun Protection policy and procedures• monitor the UVI daily and manage outdoor play and learning accordingly• monitor the impact of sun on play equipment and surfaces that children will be touching and using such as soft fall mats, artificial surfacing, etc.• role-model sun safe practices• communicate with families about sun safe practices in general and specific expectations within the service (e.g. wearing protective clothing).
Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• be aware of and follow the service’s Sun protection policy and procedures• send children to the service in appropriate clothing that offers sun protection• Vacation care and SHARE before school in summer: apply sunscreen prior to dropping off child to SHARE

RELEVANT LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO SUN PROTECTION

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL LAW	
167	Protection from harm and hazards
EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
100	Risk assessment must be conducted before excursions
113	Outdoor space natural environment
114	Outdoor space shade
168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures
168 (2)(a)(ii)	Sun Protection
170	Policies and procedures to be followed
171	Policies and procedures to be kept available
172	Notification of change to policies or procedures

National Quality Framework - My Time, Our Place	
Learning Outcome 1	Children have a strong sense of identity. Children feel safe, secure and supported
Learning Outcome 3	Children have a strong sense of wellbeing. Children take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing
Learning Outcome 5	Children are effective communicators. Children interact verbally and non-verbally with others for a range of purposes.