

ECEC POLICY



Sun Protection Policy	Document No:	r 168 1.2
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Responsible Officer: Early Childhood Coordinator	Version	01
Authorising Officer: Family Services Manager		

The City of Greater Geelong is a Child Safe Organisation. We take the safety and wellbeing of children seriously and have zero tolerance for child abuse of any type.

1. PURPOSE

The City of Greater Geelong Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Services Sun Protection Policy has been developed to ensure all children, educators and teaching staff are protected from damage caused by exposure to UV whilst participating in a full indoor/outdoor program.

2. SCOPE

ALL SERVICES:

Too much of the sun's UV radiation can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. 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. Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, with two in three Australians developing some form of skin cancer in their lifetime.

While some sun exposure is necessary for the production of vitamin D, extended and deliberate sun exposure without any form of sun protection when the UV Index is 3 or above is not recommended, even for those diagnosed with vitamin D deficiency. It is recommended that people who may be at risk of vitamin D deficiency discuss their vitamin D requirements with their medical practitioner. We therefore recommend that children of all skin types should apply sunscreen if parents/carers have given permission for this.

In line with the **Paramountcy Principle (s2A)** every person involved in delivering our education and care services will ensure that the safety, rights and best interests of children is the **paramount consideration in all their decisions and actions**.

3. REFERENCES

- Education and Care National Regulations 2011
- Amendments 2017
- Education and Care National Law Act 2010
- Amendments 2017
- Education and Care National Quality Standard
- Child Safe Standards 2022 2.4.5.9.11

- Cancer Council Victoria's SunSmart website: www.sunsmart.com.au
- ARPANSA [Radiation Protection Standard for Occupational Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation](#) (2006)
- Safe Work Australia: [Guide on exposure to solar ultraviolet radiation \(UVR\)](#) (2019)
- AS 4174:2018 Knitted and woven shade fabrics
- AS/NZS 1067.1:2016, Eye and face protection - Sunglasses and fashion spectacles
- AS/NZS 4399:2020, Sun protective clothing - Evaluation and classification
- AS/NZS 2604:202, Sunscreen products - Evaluation and classification
- AS/NZS 4685.0:2017, Playground equipment and surfacing - Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation.6.2.1 *General considerations*, 6.3.9 *Shade and sun protection*, Appendix A *Shade and sun protection*
- Sun protection and babies (0-12 months)
 - [http://wiki.cancer.org.au/policy/Position_statement_-_Sun_protection_and_infants_\(0-12_months\)#_ga=2.129265356.1924294122.1499755160-1024677917.1499755160](http://wiki.cancer.org.au/policy/Position_statement_-_Sun_protection_and_infants_(0-12_months)#_ga=2.129265356.1924294122.1499755160-1024677917.1499755160) Baby Sid sun protection steps (available in English and 10 other languages)
 - http://healthtranslations.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcht.nsf/PresentDetail?Open&s=Baby_Sid_sun_protection_steps

4. ECEC POLICY

IN ALL SERVICES, MANAGEMENT WILL:

Ensure that the implementation of this policy is carried out, and all educators and children are encouraged to access the local sun protection times via the SunSmart widget on the Service's website, the free SunSmart app or at sunsmart.com.au.

Ensure the sun protection measures listed are used for all outdoor activities **during the daily local sun protection times**. (The sun protection times are a forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology for the time-of-day UV levels are forecast to reach 3 or higher. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types. In Victoria, UV levels regularly reach 3 or higher from **mid-August to the end of April**.)

Ensure SunSmart practices consider the special needs of infants. Babies under 12 months are kept out of direct sun whenever UV levels reach 3 or higher. Physical protection such as shade, clothing and broad-brimmed hats are the best sun protection measures. If babies are kept out of the sun or well protected from UV radiation by clothing, hats and shade, then sunscreen need only be

used occasionally on very small areas of a baby's skin. *The widespread use of sunscreen on babies under 6 months old is not recommended.*

Make sure there is a sufficient number of shelters and trees providing shade in the outdoor area particularly in high-use areas.

DURING SUN PROTECTION TIMES EDUCATORS/STAFF WILL:

- Be aware of the Service's Sun Protection Policy.
Ensure children wear loose-fitting clothing that covers as much skin as possible and a wide brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hat that shades the face, neck and ears. Peak caps and visors are not considered a suitable alternative.
- Enforce a strict 'No Hat/Appropriate Clothing Shade Play Only' stance.
- Role model appropriate sun protection strategies, such as wearing appropriate lightweight clothing that covers most of their skin, wearing a broad brimmed hat and applying sunscreen.
- Have spare items of appropriate clothing, hats and sunscreen in the event a child does not have these items supplied.
- Observe strict hygiene practices when applying sunscreen to minimise risk to themselves and children.
- Apply SPF 50 broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen to children at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and re-apply every two hours according to the Sun Protection Bottle label instructions.
- Discuss the need to protect skin and eyes with the children as part of their ongoing education and care program.
- Seek to provide flexible shade options (such as gazebos and umbrellas) for children where permanent and adequate shade options are limited, to ensure children have safe access to outdoors all year round.
- Consider the availability of shade when planning all outdoor activities.
- Encourage children to play in shaded areas when outdoors.
- Use prams/strollers with a hood to avoid direct sun light during excursions.
- Ensure procedures are in line with industry best practice and health standards.
- Give children from three years of age opportunities to apply their own sunscreen, under supervision of staff, to help develop independent skills ready for school.
- Where children apply or reapply their own sunscreen they should be observed by an educator or teaching staff to ensure the child is completely covered.
- Discuss with parents any measures required to ensure appropriate levels of sun protection for all children.
- Ensure sunscreen is stored in a cool place, out of the sun and the expiry date is monitored.

DURING SUN PROTECTION TIMES PARENTS WILL:

- Be made aware of the Sun Protection Policy on enrolment, and where they can read the full policy. Provided a copy if requested.
- Ideally apply sunscreen to their child each day prior to delivery to the Service (ECEC staff can then reapply as required).

- Discuss any issues relating to the application of sunscreen with the child's educator.
- Provide broad brim, bucket or legionnaire hats, that shade children's necks, faces, eyes and ears.
- Ensure children wear clothing that covers most of the child's skin (no shoestring dresses or singlet tops). 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 and skirts for their child.
- Provide SPF 50, broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen (if the service does not provide a preferred skin sensitive brand).
- Encourage children to wear sunglasses and provide sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard 1067:2003 (Category 2,3, or 4)

5. QUALITY RECORDS

NIL

6. ATTACHMENTS

NIL