

LAKE WANGARY PRESCHOOL CENTRE



Hot Weather Policy

Policy Statement

Based on the Children's Services Act 1985, it is emphasised:

- all employees must take reasonable care to protect their own health and safety, and that of others in the workplace
- all site leaders have a duty of care to behave in a manner that ensures no foreseeable harm befalls the individual(s) under their care as a result of any negligence on their part

The requirements of the National Quality Standards are met;

- 2.3.2 Reasonable steps are taken to identify and manage risks, and every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and hazards
- The service will provide a comfortable and safe environment for children
- Heating and cooling equipment provided to maintain a comfortable temperature for children
- Sun protection/advice from the Cancer Council.

Requirements

The purpose of this policy is to:

Outline how our site will reduce the risk of heat illness to young children during hot weather. The policy will recognise that children are at greater risk of suffering from heat illness than adults. A child's ability to respond to environmental heat and acclimatise to heat is due to physiological differences.

"Children sweat less and get less evaporative cooling than adults. In warm and hot weather they have greater difficulty getting rid of heat; they look flushed, and feel hotter and more stressed than adults"

Source "Sports Medicine Australia", refer to:

www.sma.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/beat-the-heat-2008-email-version.pdf

Sites offering any program to children under 4 years of age (including occasional care) are to pay particular attention to strategies to reduce the risk of heat illness in younger children.

Guidelines

During days of extreme hot weather our centre implements the following procedures;

1.Shade Activities conducted in periods of hot weather are to be undertaken in shaded areas.

2.Drinks Children are to be frequently offered water or fluids. Drinking water is to be accessible to children at all times.

3.Clothing Parents will be encouraged to dress children in clothing that minimises heat gain, in layers that can be easily removed during activity and of a type that is sunsafe.

Refer www.arpana.gov.au/radiationprotection/factsheets/is_UVProtection.cfm

4.Lunch Parents will be encouraged to pack food in insulated containers with a freezer brick or frozen water. Bags are stored indoors in air conditioned corridor.

5.Breakdown In the event that the cooling system breaks we will relocate our children to an air conditioned area of the Primary School. If the power goes off we will contact parents to collect their children. If parents are unable to collect their children we will continue to supervise children and keep them as comfortable as possible.

In developing our hot weather policy we have consider the following;

- 1.** Location of the site (e.g. Ceduna compared to Mount Gambier);
- 2.** Building design (e.g. north/south facing, verandah/no verandah);
- 3.** Effectiveness of the ventilation/cooling system;
- 4.** Bushfire Action Plan;
- 5.** Equipment when hot enough to place children at risk of burn injuries.

Updated 18/03/2013

Review February 2014

