



Lock Early Learning Centre

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Lock Early Learning Centre Sun Protection Policy

Rationale

Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world with two out of every three people developing some form of skin cancer before they are 85. Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Sun exposure in the first 10 years of life determines, to a substantial degree, the likelihood of skin cancer developing later in life.

The Cancer Council SA advises people protect their skin at times when the ultraviolet (UV) radiation level is 3 and above – this is when it is strong enough to cause damage to unprotected skin. For much of South Australia, UV radiation levels are 3 and above everyday from September to April – it is during these months that sun protection is necessary.

It is important to balance sun protection with safe sun exposure for the production of vitamin D for bone growth and development. During May to August, at times when the UV radiation level is below 3, sun protection for most people is not necessary.

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that all members of our Early Childhood Service are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful rays of the sun.

The aims of the "Lock Early Learning Centre Skin Protection Policy" are to promote among children, staff and parents:

- Positive attitudes towards skin protection.
- Lifestyle practices which can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and the number of related deaths.
- Personal responsibility for and decision making about skin protection.

The Lock Early Learning Centre skin protection policy will be in place from the 1st of September until the 30th of April when UV radiation levels are high.

We will reduce the risk of detrimental sun exposure to young children by:

- Eating lunch/snack in shaded areas
- Whenever possible holding activities indoors on extreme days particularly between 10am – 3pm (when UV levels are at their highest).
- Holding outdoor activities where possible in shaded areas from 1st of September until the 30th of April
- Children and staff wearing a broad brimmed, legionnaire style, or bucket hat, whenever they are involved in outside activities from September to April. Children not wearing an appropriate hat will be expected to play in the shade or to wear a spare hat.
- Parents dressing children in appropriate sun protective clothing E.g. Shirts or dresses that cover the shoulders – no singlet or midriff tops etc.
- Parents/staff applying sunscreen as directed by the parents.

Parents will supply sunscreen for the children's use. There will be sunscreen available at the centre.

Governing Council endorsement:

Issue date 2014

Review date 2016