



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 70. Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Sun exposure in the first ten years of life determines, to a substantial degree, the likelihood of skin cancer developing later in life.

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. Therefore in terms 1 and 4 hats and sunscreen are compulsory. In term 2 and 3 hats are compulsory and educators will consult the "Sunsmart app" and notify parents daily via a sign and verbal communication.

Aims

Hendon Pre-schools skin protection policy aims to promote among children, educators 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 skin protection;
- Awareness of the need for environmental changes in our centre to reduce the level of sun exposure when the UV radiation level is 3 and above.

Implementation

To ensure all children attending Hendon Pre-school are protected from skin damage caused by harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun, it is an expectation that educators, children and parents will use the following skin protection strategies:

- Throughout the year, children will be required to wear a broad brimmed hat (in line with Hendon Primary School Policy)
- Outdoor activities will be scheduled with consideration to weather conditions
- SPF 50+ broad spectrum sunscreen will be provided for educators and children. Families will be encouraged to apply sunscreen prior to each session. Children will be assisted to reapply prior to going outside or as required.
- Educators will ensure sunscreen is not out of date.
- The Pre-school will provide balance of outdoor experiences including those which encourage play in the shade of trees, verandas, umbrellas, tents;
- Discussion about skin and ways to protect it will be encouraged as part of the pre-school curriculum;
- Parents will be informed about the Sun Protection Policy when enrolling their child. Parents will be responsible for informing the educator if their child has sensitive skin, and will be asked to provide a suitable sunscreen for their child's exclusive use
- Educators will be aware of the proper application of sunscreen and model the practices outlined above.
- Educators will be encouraged to role model appropriate SunSmart strategies in all Pre-school activities.