

# Clothing Policy

*Children need protective, comfortable, and appropriate clothing and footwear to explore their environment. Clothing needs to protect children from injury and sun exposure while promoting self-help abilities. Appropriate footwear will fit a child's foot correctly and ensure comfort. Educators will also dress to prevent injury and sun exposure and will be encouraged to dress in a professional and respectful manner.*

## National Quality Standards (NQS)

| Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety |   |
|--|---|
| 2.1.1  | Each child's health needs are supported   |
| 2.1.2  | Each child's comfort is provided for and there are appropriate opportunities to meet each child's need for sleep, rest, and relaxation. |
| 2.3.2  | Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury.                               |

| Quality Area 5: Relationships with children |   |
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| 5.2.3                                       | The dignity and rights of every child are always maintained |

## PURPOSE

It is the aim to ensure the safety and comfort of all children by providing appropriate clothing guidelines for children, parents and staff utilising and working at the service.

Children being clothed appropriately enables them to play without risk of sunburn and serious injury caused by inappropriate footwear or clothing. Children are more at ease, reassured, satisfied and less anxious when they are: dressed for warmth during winter or not over-dressed during summer, or wearing safe footwear when climbing outdoor play equipment or participating in sport.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management, and visitors of the service.

## IMPLEMENTATION

Effective clothing strategies, including sun protection clothing, are important factors in ensuring a child feels safe and secure at our Service.

### Management/Nominated Supervisor will:

- Ensure that a Sun Safety Policy is developed and maintained.
- Ensure that educators are provided with personal protective equipment (gloves), to facilitate cleaning and health protection measures.
- Provide information for educators about suitable clothing and footwear expectations for the education and care work environment.

- Provide information for families about suitable clothing and footwear. This information will also be available at the Service using a variety of communication strategies including Flexischools, Hubhello, notices and website.
- Ensure educators are aware and abide by the Sun Safety Policy.

#### Educators will:

- Consult with families about the individual needs of children with respect to different values and beliefs associated with clothing and footwear.
- Monitor children's clothing and footwear to ensure compliance with the Sun Protection Policy and to support the safety, comfort, and wellbeing of every child.
- Consider clothing and footwear needs associated with excursions or planned learning experiences and communicate clearly with families about the need for extraordinary protective clothing requirements.
- Provide protective clothing, such as aprons, for messy play experiences. Children will be encouraged by educators to wear protective clothing during messy and water play.

#### Families will

- Provide spare clothing in children's bags to allow for dirty or soiled clothing and changing weather conditions.
- Dress children appropriately, including footwear and appropriate hat.
- Ensure their Child is clothed in an appropriate manner which will allow them to explore and play freely and not restrict them using equipment while at play.
- Ensure children are appropriately protected from the sun - please refer to Sun Safety Policy for further directives on hats and clothing.
- Ensure children's clothing accommodates for the weather conditions. i.e., be loose and cool in summer to prevent overheating and warm enough for cold weather – including outdoor play. At all times educators, will monitor children to ensure they are appropriately dressed for all weather, play experiences and rest.
- Ensure Children have appropriate footwear that enables them to play comfortably and not cause safety concerns.
- Ensure all clothing and belongings must be clearly labelled with the child's name.

#### Source

- Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2015,
- Guide to the National Quality Standard.
- Community Child Care Co-Operative
- The NSW Work Health and Safety Act
- SIDS and KIDS – [www.sidsandkids.org](http://www.sidsandkids.org)
- Cancer Council Australia – [www.cancer.org.au](http://www.cancer.org.au)
- Raising Children Network – <http://raisingchildren.net.au>
- Staying Healthy in Child Care 5<sup>th</sup> Edition

**Review**

| Policy Review Date |
|--------------------|
| July 2022          |