

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Health

Providers must have and implement a policy, and procedures, for protecting children from the sun.

6.9 Sun Protection

Policy statement

We recognise the importance of outdoor play in all seasons and provide a wide range of outdoor activities to support children in their learning. However, children need special care when they are in the sun and as adults we need to help children to understand how to stay safe and protect themselves in the sun and where necessary implement precautionary measure for them.

We aim to:

- protect children while they are in our care
- work in partnership with parents to protect children at other times
- help children to understand the importance of keeping themselves safe in the sun.

We take particular care over the summer months from April to September and between 11am and 3pm, when the sun is at its strongest, to ensure that children are adequately protected. We recognise that fair skin is particularly susceptible to sunburn but understand that all skin types need to be adequately protected.

Our policy is based upon guidance from Cancer Research UK's SunSmart Guidelines for Nurseries and Pre-schools.

Procedures

- we request that parents/guardians provide 'in date' sunscreen (at least factor 15), clearly labelled with their child's name between April and September and ideally apply the first application before arriving at the setting
- parents' permission will be obtained for staff, usually key persons to supervise/assist children applying sunscreen when necessary
- clothing for outdoor play should cover the shoulders and arms to avoid the risk of burning
- sun hats, preferably legionnaire style, should be worn to shade the back of the neck and eyes – spare caps/hats are available in the setting
- staff should also wear hats, suitable clothing and sunscreen as role models
- any sunglasses worn must have appropriate UV filters
- we will provide shaded areas in which to play wherever possible

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- we will incorporate sun awareness into our discussions/activities/routines with children to encourage lifelong learning in respect of personal health and the sun
- we will actively encourage children to drink at regular intervals, helping themselves where appropriate and to understand the associated benefits
- we will discuss our sun protection procedures with parents/guardians when their child starts at the setting and updates will be sent via our summer term newsletter.

Further guidance

- Cancer Research UK (www.sunsmart.org.uk)

This policy was adopted at a meeting of _____ *(name of provider)*

Held on _____ *(date)*

Date to be reviewed _____ *(date)*

Signed on behalf of the provider _____

Name of signatory _____

Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner) _____