

	<b>Policy Category:</b> <b>HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>
	<b>Policy Name:</b> <b>Sun Protection Policy</b>

## Purpose

The purpose of this operational policy is to keep children and adults safe by meeting Licensing Criteria **HS27** – Child Health and Wellbeing, and 46 Health and safety practices standard of the Education (Early Childhood Education) Regulations 2008.

## Position Statement

As part of the centre's commitment to protect children from harm we minimise the risk of exposing children to excessive ultraviolet radiation (UVR) that causes sunburn, skin damage and increases the risk of skin cancer.

We recognise the importance of having a balance between increasing the risk of skin cancer and getting enough sun exposure for children to maintain adequate levels of vitamin D. Between April and August (approximately) children will be encouraged to actively enjoy the sun and not wear sunhats, sunscreen or play in the shade.

## Issue Outline

Enjoying the outdoors is a key part of the early childhood education experience, as is the safety and wellbeing of the children enrolled in our service. The risks associated with exposure to the sun can be significant and can also be managed so that play and learning outdoors can occur safely.

## Detail

Whilst there is no statutory obligation to have a policy and procedure to protect children from the sun, there is the regulatory requirement to promote good health and safety and to keep children from harm. This policy is in place to ensure children are safe and comfortable when they are outside and parents are informed of how the centre keeps them safe from excessive sun exposure.

Parent and family awareness is promoted by our centre in many ways, including:

- At enrolment
- General conversations

- Providing a copy of our centre's sun protection policy
- Other seasonal promotional activities.

We will apply sunscreen to exposed skin for any child playing outdoors in sunny conditions, unless parents specifically refuse this and this is noted in the enrolment form.

Our centre provides sunscreen cancer society SPF50+. We will apply when the UV Index is 3 and above and reapply 3 hourly during the day.

As sunscreen is not a medicine, it does not need to be authorised or acknowledged in the same way that medicines do.

Parents are not required to sign for sunscreen on a daily basis.

We keep a sunscreen chart to keep track of how often children have had sunscreen applied and all staff have the correct information when sunscreen was applied last. This chart is located on the deck outside

All sunscreen supplied by parents is individually named and all staff are informed.

Older children are encouraged to apply their own sunscreen under adult supervision to develop a routine of being sunsmart.

Adults will take precautions to avoid spread of infection whilst applying sunscreen, particularly to children's faces. A high degree of hygiene is expected.

We will require all children playing outside in sunny conditions to wear a sunhat. This will be monitored.

We ensure all children playing outside during sunny days maintain good hydration practices.

We ensure all children playing outside during sunny days wear appropriate clothing so their skin is protected.

The centre provides shaded areas through use of shade sails, well established trees and the use of umbrellas if required.

## **Alignment with Other Policies**

- Accident and Illness Policy HS25
- Hazard and Risk Management Policy HS12
- Outings and Excursions Policy HS17

## **Relevant background (including legislation/regulation references)**

Education (Early Childhood Services) Regulations 2008, 46 Health and Safety Practices standard general:

- 1(a): requires every licensed service provider to whom this regulation applies to take all reasonable steps to promote the good health and safety of children enrolled in the service.

Ministry of Education ECE Licensing Criterion HS27

NZ Cancer Society Professional Development for ECE staff video resource:

[https://csnz.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/Modules/ECE+module+FINAL+June+2022/story\\_html5.html](https://csnz.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/Modules/ECE+module+FINAL+June+2022/story_html5.html)

Sun Smart: Be safe - Be sun smart

<https://www.sunsmart.org.nz/>

## Impacts of Policy on Staff, Parents, Children

Consequences policy will help to avoid includes:

- Children being exposed to excessive UVR from being in the direct sunlight for too long
- Eye damage
- Sunburn and skin damage (immediate) and risk of skin cancer
- Unhappy children and parents

## Alignment with the Centre Philosophy

This policy ensures a safe environment, a crucial part of creating and maintaining the well-being of children in our care.

## Implications and/or Risks

- Children playing outside in direct sunlight during the times when the UV Index is 3 or above are at risk of sunburn, overheating, sunstroke, or dehydration.

## Implementation

Clear procedures have been developed and staff trained to follow them.

## Review

Review annually or when there is a significant change in the area of the policy topic.

<b>Authorised by licensed service:</b>	Greendale Kids Preschool Greendale Kids Nursery
<b>Date:</b>	22 January 2025
<b>Review Date:</b>	January 2026
<b>Parents informed:</b>	May 2025