Early Childhood Learning Centre

Sun protection policy

UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY
Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha

Categories: Health & Safety

Last Modified: Jan 2025

Review Date: Jan 2027

Policy statement

Staff and children's health, safety and well-being are supported at the Centre.

Rationale

To protect children and adults at the centres from the harmful effects of the sun, and to encourage and educate children to recognise the long-term effects of unprotected / prolonged exposure to the sun.

Guidelines

- 1. Teachers and children will wear hats when outside, when appropriate, particularly during daylight saving months.
- 2. Teachers and children are offered the choice to wear sunglasses when outside.
- 3. Teachers will encourage parents to supply children with sun-safe sunhats and ensure that they are worn outdoors. (Sun-safe sunhats are those which protect the face, neck and ears.) The Centre will have spare hats available. Children must wear clothing which protects the shoulders whenever they are outdoors.
- 4. The Centre will provide a broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen of at least SPF 30, and apply it to children's exposed skin at regular intervals as required throughout the day.
- 5. Parents are responsible for informing staff of any skin allergies or preferred sunscreen and providing an appropriate alternative sunscreen to be applied on their child.
- 6. Children under one year of age will be cared for in shaded areas where possible. We do not apply sunblock to these children unless parents request us to.
- 7. All children will receive ongoing teaching and reminders about the need to be sunsafe.
- 8. Management will ensure there are shelters, UV sunshades and/or trees providing shade over areas where children congregate.
- 9. Excursions and outdoor activities will take into account the times of day and sun exposure risks. Teachers and children will be encouraged to wear clothing appropriate to the conditions.

10. The teacher records each child's application of sun block electronically, in accordance with the Centre's sleep procedures. Sun block application times are available for parents to view in the 'Xplor Home' app (available in the app store).