



## Sun Protection Policy

### Rationale:

New Zealand is a country with a high incidence of skin cancer. This can be caused by excessive exposure to UVR (Ultraviolet Radiation) from the sun resulting sunburn and skin damage. As our Centre philosophy promotes children spending time outside, we have developed a policy to ensure that all children attending this Centre are protected from the skin and eye damage caused by over-exposure to harmful UVR from the sun using a combination of protection.

### Purpose:

1. To increase awareness of sun sense and practical means of skin protection.
2. To develop strategies which encourage responsible decision making about skin protection.
3. To encourage children and staff to wear protective clothing and hats for outdoor activities and at high risk times, e.g. during outdoor play and outings between 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> April.
4. To protect children from excessive sun and encourage self help skills in the children by the children protecting themselves from the sun.

### Procedure:

1. Between the months of September to April it is expected that parents apply sun block to their child/ren before they arrive at the Centre. This is formally communicated through enrolment and regular reminder either directly or via the newsletter.
2. Staff will ensure children's faces and exposed limbs are protected with at least SPF 30+ sunblock (supplied by the Centre) Sun block will then be reapplied by staff after lunch, before the children return outside or after water play if necessary. Sun block will be applied to children regularly during danger times if children are outdoors, e.g. between 10.00am - 4.00 pm.
3. If a child has sensitivity to sunscreen it will be noted on the wall with the allergies. In this case we encourage parents to supply their own sunscreen
4. The children are required to wear hats which protect the face, neck and ears whenever they are outside during September to April months, especially between the hours of 10.00am to 4.00pm.
5. Children are encouraged to wear a sun hat when outside, between September and April.

6. The Centre will ensure there are shelters and trees providing shade in areas where children play.
7. Time inside may be encouraged between 10am – 4pm on a particularly dangerous day, especially for our younger children.
8. When outside, children are to wear loose fitting clothing that covers as much skin as possible
9. The sun safe habit will be promoted and explained in the formal curriculum. Damage by and effects of the sun's radiation will be explained and demonstrated.
10. Staff will act as role models by:
  - a. Wearing appropriate hats and clothing for outdoor activities.
  - b. Using an SPF 30+ sunblock on exposed skin.
  - c. Seeking shade whenever possible and encouraging children to be "Sun Smart".
  - d. Regularly reinforcing the sun protection policy in a positive way through newsletters, reminders on the parent noticeboard, in one-on-one conversation and meetings.

**For more Information:** 0800 CANCER  
[www.cancernz.org.nz](http://www.cancernz.org.nz)

**Statutory Source:** The Cancer Society of NZ, Education (Early Childhood Services) Regulations 2008 Reg 47/GMA4/GMA6