



Links

Education and Care Services National Regulations: 114, 168

National Quality Standards: Quality Area 2 Children's Health and Safety, and
Quality Area 3 Physical Environment

Policy statement

Tropics Early Learning aims to protect children, staff and volunteers from the harmful effects of the sun, by implementing the sun safety recommendations of the Cancer Council Australia. Due to UV levels in Darwin being high all year round, this policy is equally applicable at all times of the year.

Implementation

- Children must wear sun safe hats for outside play, these will be provided by the service. Those children who refuse to wear a hat will be asked to play in an area protected from the sun (e.g., under shade, veranda or indoors)
- Children and educators must wear sun safe clothing, this includes shirts and dresses that have shoulder covering sleeves (no midriff, singlet, or crop tops).
- Parents/guardians are asked to apply SPF 30+ sunscreen prior to bringing their child to the centre, or upon arrival at the centre. Sunscreen can be located in the foyer, and in all rooms. Staff will reapply sunscreen to children every 2 hours, and/or 20 minutes prior to outdoor play in the afternoon. If families do not want sunscreen applied to their child, they are to notify the Centre in writing, and if necessary, provide the child's own sunscreen.
- To apply sunscreen staff must:
 - Use a separate tissue for each child, or wash hands/change gloves between each child.
 - encourage older children to apply their own sunscreen with supervision and guidance from educators.
 - ensure hands are washed thoroughly after sunscreen application; and
 - apply it to all areas of exposed skin.
- We will ensure that outdoor areas provide adequate shade for effective sun protection. Shade options can include a combination of portable, natural or built shade. Babies under 12 months old will be provided with shade at all times when they are outdoors.
- When planning and programming for outdoor activities, including excursions, the availability of shade will be considered. Planned experiences will be set up in shady areas and moved as required to take advantage of shade patterns.
- Educators must wear hats and are encouraged to wear UV protection sunglasses when working outdoors. Sunscreen is provided for staff members to apply prior to outdoor activity, and they are encouraged to seek shade while outdoors.
- Sun safety information will be provided to families upon enrolment, in the family handbook, newsletters, on the centre notice board, via emails, and pamphlets.

- Children will be taught about the importance of sun safety daily, in their routines, through general discussion, and through the inclusion of sun safety in their educational programs.

Sources: *Work Health and Safety Act 2011; Cancer Council Australia; Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011; National Quality Standard*

Policy redeveloped February 2023 (see archived policies for any previous versions)

Date of review	Modifications made	Approved
February 2023	Redeveloped the policy	May 2023