STURT ST EARLY LEARNING CENTRE
SKIN PROTECTION POLICY

This policy operates from September 1st until April 31st. Extra care must be taken between the times of 10:00am and 3:00pm.

The months from May 1st to August 31st care must be taken when the ultraviolet radiation level is 3 (moderate) and above.

It is important to balance sun protection with sun exposure as this produces vitamin D which assists in bone growth and development. Therefore during the months of May through to August, if the UV levels are less than 3, sun protection is not necessary. (Cancer Council SA)

PURPOSE

Our purpose is to ensure all members of our service are protected from skin damage caused by the sun rays. This includes all children, staff and parents/career.

AIM

Our aim at Sturt Street Community School and Early Learning Centre is

- To ensure that all children and staff at our Service are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun and from wind burn.
- To promote positive attitudes toward skin protection among children, staff and parents/carers.
- To incorporate sun and skin awareness activities into the daily routine in order to promote lifestyle practices which help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and related problems.

Procedure

Exposure to Sun

- Children will be encouraged to avoid direct exposure to the sun during the hours of intense ultraviolet radiation (11am - 3pm, during daylight saving time). Staff will direct children to play in shaded areas of the yard during other periods.
- The centre has adequate shaded and verandah areas where activities will be set up to minimise direct exposure to the sun.
- Particular care will be taken to prevent babies from being exposed to sun. Babies will be covered when outdoors, by clothing hats or shade.
Hats
- The Service recommends legionnaire or bucket style hats
- Sunhats are to be worn at all times when outside.
- The Service has a ‘no hat – no play’ emphasis. Children without hats will be directed to play indoors or under the verandah.

Sunscreen
- Parents should apply a minimum of SPF 30+ sunscreen before or when children arrive in the morning and sunscreen will be reapplied by staff, as required, throughout the day. Staff will apply a broad-spectrum SPF 30+ sunscreen to clean dry skin 15-20 minutes before going outside. It will be re-applied every 2 hours.
- Application of sunscreen is checked using the whiteboard grid in the Toddler and Babies room to show when sunscreen has been applied.
- A sun block station will be provided near the sign in sheets for parents to access upon arrival if required. Parents will be asked to consent to staff applying sunscreen to their children as part of the enrolment process.
- The centre will provide approved child-safe sunscreen as per Cancer Council of SA recommendation. Parents can choose to supply their own approved sunscreen if this is their preference.

Clothing
- Parents/carers are encouraged to dress their children appropriately for Sun Safety. This includes tops with sleeves, shirts with collars and no midriff or singlet straps.
- If children come to our service with clothing that does not cover shoulder, midriff and back, the centre will provide a loan T shirt which can be worn for sun protection. Staff will approach parents in person, by written note or email to let them know of what they need to do to ensure that children are wearing clothing suitable for sun protection in the future.

Staff
- Staff will be positive role models and wear sensible clothing to cover shoulders and torso, hats outdoors, and practice skin protective behaviours.
- Staff will incorporate sun protection awareness activities in the teaching programs, featuring songs, rhymes and posters to educate children about sun protection.
- Staff will provide sun protection information for parents/carers via regular reminders in our newsletters, notes by the sign in sheets and verbally.

Reviewed June 2012 by Sturt St ELC Advisory committee