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## Hot Weather Policy

This policy recognises that children are at greater risk of suffering from heat illness than adults. A child's ability to respond to environmental heat and acclimatise to heat is due to physiological differences. "Children sweat less and get less evaporative cooling than adults. In warm and hot weather they have greater difficulty getting rid of heat; they look flushed, and feel hotter and more stressed than adults"

Source "Sports Medicine Australia", refer to:  
[www.sma.org.au](http://www.sma.org.au)

### **Crucial to this policy is:**

- All employees including leaders must take reasonable care to protect their own health and safety and that of others in our preschool.
- We need to ensure strategies are in place to reduce the risk of heat illness or burn injuries.

### **Our role is to:**

- Ensure reasonable steps are taken to identify risk and every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and hazards.
- Provide a comfortable and safe environment for all children.
- Ensure heating and cooling equipment are provided and maintained to ensure a comfortable temperature for children
- Adhere to sun protection and advice from the Cancer Council.
- Check all surfaces in the preschool ensuring children are not a risk of burn injuries.

### **We will use the following strategies to reduce the risk of heat illness in children by:**

- Providing shaded areas. Activities conducted in periods of hot weather are to be undertaken in shaded areas.
- On very hot days we will move or remove that equipment that is placed in the sun.
- Ensuring children are frequently offered water. Staff are very happy to top up children's water bottles with water.
- Encouraging parents to dress children in appropriate clothes and ensuring children are removing jumpers when it is hot.

As our preschool has effective cooling we do not have an Early Dismissal Clause.

**Please refer to our Bush Fire Policy which states our preschool is closed on days deemed "Catastrophic".**

### **References**

"Sports Medicine Australia",  
[www.sma.org.au](http://www.sma.org.au)  
DECD Guidelines for Developing a Preschool Hot Weather Policy  
[www.decd.sa.gov.au/childrenservices/pages/earlychildhoodreform/interactions](http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/childrenservices/pages/earlychildhoodreform/interactions)

National Quality Standards. Standard 2.3.2 Children's Health and Safety.  
[www.deewr.gov.au/EarlyChildhood/Policy\\_Agenda/Quality/Pages/QualityStandards.aspx](http://www.deewr.gov.au/EarlyChildhood/Policy_Agenda/Quality/Pages/QualityStandards.aspx)

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