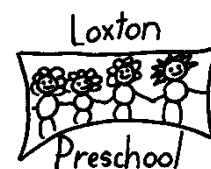


Hot Weather Policy



NQS

QA2	2.3.2	Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury.
QA3	3.1.1	Outdoor and indoor spaces, buildings, furniture, equipment, facilities and resources are suitable for their purpose.

NATIONAL REGULATIONS

Regs	114	Outdoorspace - shade
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EYLF

IO1	1.1	Children feel safe, secure and supported
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Who is affected by this policy?

- Children
- Families
- Educators
- Governing Council

Aims

The aim of the Loxton Pre school Centre's Hot Weather Policy is to reduce the risk of heat illness to young children and educators.

Purpose

The purpose of our policy is to ensure that strategies are in place to reduce the risk of heat illness or burn injuries to children and educators from the heat of the sun while at preschool.

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/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/beat-the-heat-2008-email-version.pdf

Underpinning this policy is the fact that all employees, including leaders, must take reasonable care to protect their own health and safety and that of others in the preschool.

Implementation

At Loxton Preschool Centre we aim to keep everyone safe at all times and in particular during periods of hot weather.

The preschool will:

1. Provide a comfortable and safe environment for all children and educators.
2. Provide heating and cooling equipment to maintain a comfortable temperature for all children and educators.
3. Adhere to our Skin Protection Policy and advice from the Cancer Council of South Australia.
4. Recognise the risk of heat stress is a factor of both air temperature and relative humidity levels.
5. Assess the heat of play surfaces and equipment on days of extreme temperature and ensure children do not access the area of equipment when hot enough to place children at risk of burn injuries. (The main area to consider is the yellow slide as most of the equipment is under shade.)

Strategies to reduce the risk of heat illness will include :-

Shade :

During periods of hot weather activities will be conducted in shaded areas. Portable equipment will be removed from unshaded areas and either shifted into the shade or packed away.

During periods of extreme heat children will be required to remain under the veranda area or inside.

Drinks:

1. Drinking water will be accessible to children and educators at all times. Drink taps are provided.
2. Children and educators are encouraged to bring their own named drink bottle containing water and will be reminded to drink regularly. A fridge is provided inside for children and educators to store their water bottles if desired.
3. All children are given a cup of water to drink prior to commencing eating their lunch.
4. Educators are encouraged to drink water at regular intervals.

Clothing:

Parents are encouraged to dress children in clothing that minimises heat gain, in layers that can be easily removed during activity and of a type that adheres with our Skin Protection Policy.

Sunsafer hats are to be worn when outside as per guidelines in our Skin Protection Policy. When hats are deemed necessary our “NO HAT, NO PLAY” rule is applied.

Refer to : www.apansa.gov.au/radiationprotection/factsheets/is_UVProtection.cfm

Food Storage:

Food that children and educators bring to preschool will be stored in a cool place. Morning and afternoon fruit will be stored in the kitchen with items requiring refrigeration being placed in the fridge. All children’s and educator’s lunch boxes will be stored in the fridge for safe keeping.

Early Dismissal

As our preschool has effective cooling systems we will remain open for normal operating hours.

Early dismissal guidelines for children accessing school bus transport will be followed in accordance with the Loxton Schools Hot Weather Policy.

Loxton Preschool Centre will be open when the Riverland Fire Ban District is classified as “Catastrophic” by the Bureau of Meteorology. However no school buses will run. Refer to Loxton Preschool Centre Preparation for Catastrophic Days procedure.

Sources

- Early Years Learning Framework
- National Quality Standard
- Cancer Council SA
- DECD Guidelines for Developing a Preschool Hot Weather Policy
- Sports Medicine Australia

Review

The policy will be reviewed bi-annually.

Review will be conducted by:

- Governing Council
- Employees
- Families
- Interested Parties

Reviewed: 28/11/2014

Date for next review: 28/11/2016

Ratified by Governing Council _____ Director’s Signature _____