



AGNES GOODE KINDERGARTEN/OCCASIONAL CARE

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HOT WEATHER POLICY

Rationale

At Agnes Goode Kindergarten we recognise our responsibility to provide a safe and comfortable environment for children during hot weather and to employ site specific risk minimising strategies to reduce the risk of heat illness in young children.

We have adopted a hot weather policy in addition to our existing Skin Protection Policy.

Context

On days of extreme heat the preschool will remain open. Agnes Goode Kindergarten has 4 indoor split type air-conditioning units that allow for adequate cooling on hot days and heating on colder days. Our outdoor environment has front and side covered veranda areas. We will aim to provide a comfortable and safe environment for children.

Strategies to reduce the risk of heat illness will include:

- During periods of hot weather activities will be conducted in shaded areas.
- Drinking water will be accessible at all times. Children will be reminded to have a drink and children will be encouraged to bring a drink bottle.
- Families will be encouraged to dress children in clothing that minimises heat gain, in layers that can be easily removed during activity and a type that is 'Sun Safe'.
- Families are encouraged to pack food in insulated containers with a freezer brick or frozen water. The preschool can provide freezer bricks if necessary. These need to be returned to the Kindergarten.

The following measures will apply on days when the UV radiation levels are high and when educators feel conditions warrant it:

- limiting outdoor activities to the shaded areas of the Preschool; or
- limiting outside access to the verandah for quiet activities (staff discretion will be used to determine time spent outside); or indoor activities only
- eating snacks inside.

Agnes Goode Kindergarten recognises that parents may experience heat related stress when they deliver and collect children and therefore encourage families to use the veranda and come into the air-conditioned building.

Below are related documents for further information:-

Agnes Goode Kindergarten Sun Protection Policy and

<http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/docs/documents/1/InclementWeatherProc.pdf>

REVIEWED: APRIL 2014

DATE FOR NEXT REVIEW: Term 1 2016

AUTHORISED ON BEHALF OF GOVERNING COUNCIL: *K Wiseman, Director*