

Children's Health & Safety

Sun Protection Policy.

Our Vision.

To give every child **the best start in life.**

Our Mission.

To deliver high quality childcare and exciting learning opportunities for every child, giving them a head start as they prepare for school.

Our Values.

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| Care | We take care of the children entrusted to us and our dedicated staff. All are appreciated and diversity is valued. |
| Quality | We maintain the highest standards in care and safety and provide exceptional early years education. |
| Service | We provide exceptional service and are integral to supporting parents bringing up children. |
| Value | We provide outstanding value for our families. |



Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in Australia, affecting all ages. The Cancer Council advises that two in three Australians will develop some form of skin cancer during their lifetime, with childhood sun exposure being an important risk factor. It is widely understood that the risk of developing skin cancer is directly related to the intensity and duration of sun exposure. Research now indicates that childhood sun exposure is an important contributing factor to the development of skin cancer later in life. Infants and toddlers up to four years of age are particularly vulnerable to UV damage. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in life.

Therefore, Busy Bees employees will always promote and adhere to sun protection policies and practices, and the Sun Protection policy will be made available to employees, Families, and visitors.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2 – Children's Health and Safety	
2.1 - Health	2.1.1 - Wellbeing and Comfort 2.1.3 - Healthy Lifestyle
2.2 - Safety	2.2.1 - Supervision
QUALITY AREA 3 – Physical Environment	
3.1 - Design	3.1.1 - Design 3.1.2 - Upkeep

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL LAW AND REGULATIONS

Part 6	Operating an Education and Care Service (Law - 167)
Part 4.2	Children's Health and Safety (Reg - 77, 100)
Part 4.3	Physical Environment (Reg - 113, 114)
Part 4.7	Governance and Leadership (Reg - 168, 170, 171, 172)

RELATED POLICIES

Child Enrolment and Orientation Policy Child Safe and Physical Environment Policy Excursion and Incursion Policy Health and Hygiene Policy	Supervision Policy Water Safety Policy Work Health and Safety Policy
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PURPOSE

Busy Bees Early Learning Australia is committed to protecting all children and employees from the harmful effects of ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun and aim to provide appropriate practices in relation to the management of Sun Protection, while teaching children good sun protection habits from an early age.

SCOPE

Children, Busy Bees Employees, Management, Visitors and Families

POLICY

Busy Bees has a duty of care which extends to ensuring that appropriate sun protection practices are implemented to adequately protect children, employees, and visitors from ultraviolet radiation from the sun, as well as burns from exposure to surfaces heated by the sun. Ultraviolet radiation exposure from the sun is a hazard, and as such, employers, and employees both have roles and responsibilities to ensure appropriate measures are taken to prevent over-exposure and to reduce the risk of all types of injuries and risks to health in the workplace.

The major cause of skin cancer is too much exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun. Skin can burn in as little as 15 minutes in the summer sun, so it is important to protect skin from UV radiation.

Busy Bees employees will ensure that sunscreen is applied in accordance with the SLOP guidelines each time they are outdoors, and a combination of sun protection measures will also be applied when the UV Index is 3 or above. The UV Rating and Sun Protection Times will be monitored throughout the day to ensure the highest protection for children is being observed.

Our SunSmart practices consider the special needs of infants, and babies under 12 months of age will not be exposed to direct sunlight when the UV Index is 3 or above. This does not mean these children will be deprived of going outside, just that consideration needs to be given when outside with them in accordance with Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek & Slide. Physical protection such as shade, clothing and broad-brimmed hats are the best sun protection measures. If babies are kept out of the sun or well protected from UV radiation by clothing, hats, and shade, then sunscreen need only be used occasionally on very small areas of a baby's skin. The widespread use of sunscreen on babies under 6 months old is not recommended.

Sun Protection Times

UV levels vary across Australia and throughout the year. This listing highlights when UV is typically three and above in each state / territory. There may be times UV levels are three and above outside these periods.

Please check the daily local sun protection times and UV levels to be sure you are using sun protection when it is required for your location.

State / Territory	Typical UV Level Guidelines
Australian Capital Territory	August to end of May. Wherever practicable, outdoor activities should be minimised between 11am and 3pm in summer.
New South Wales	All year. Extra care is taken during the peak UV radiation times and outdoor activities are scheduled outside of these times where possible.
Northern Territory	All year. Wherever practicable, outdoor activities should take place before 10am and after 3pm, when UV levels are lower.
Queensland	The UV index level averages 3 and above all year, therefore sun protection is required all year round. When possible, outdoor activities should be limited between 10am-3pm.
South Australia	August to end of April. Extra care is taken during the peak UV radiation times and outdoor activities are scheduled outside of these times where possible.
Tasmania	September to the end of April. Active outdoor play is encouraged throughout the year provided appropriate sun protection measures are used when necessary.
Western Australia	All year. Active outdoor play is encouraged throughout the day all year provided appropriate sun protection measures are used when necessary.
Victoria	Mid-August to the end of April. Active outdoor play is encouraged throughout the day all year provided appropriate sun protection measures are used when necessary.

Role Modelling and Education

For Work Health and Safety and role modelling, when the UV is 3 and above, employees are required to practice SunSmart behaviours including wearing sun protective clothing, sunscreen, appropriate hats, and sunglasses and seek shade when outdoors. Employees will also encourage Families and visitors to act as positive role models and demonstrate SunSmart behaviour when attending the Service.

Employees will engage in educational discussions with children to ensure they understand the importance of sun safety and learn how to take effective sun protection actions.

Employees will be encouraged to complete Sun Protection trainings.

Sun Protection Measures - Slip Slop Slap Seek & Slide

Busy Bees will ensure employees and children in care are protected against sun damage and skin cancer by using a combination of these five Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide Steps:

SLIP on Protective Clothing

- When outdoors, all children will wear sun protective clothing that protects as much of the skin as possible. Suitable clothing includes collars, elbow length sleeves and knee length or longer style shorts and skirts. No singlet or midriff tops are allowed
- If providing outdoor water/sprinkler play we will ensure that children wear materials such as Lycra clothing, which stay sun protective when wet - This clothing type does not apply to water trough and indoor water play
- Children without protective clothing will be required to play in an area protected from the sun e.g., under dense shade, veranda or indoors, or can be provided spare clothing where possible

SLOP on SPF 30 or higher broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen & re-apply every 2 hours

Sunscreen should not be used to increase the amount of time spent in the sun and should always be used with other forms of protection.

- Sunscreen provided at the Service will be SPF 30 or higher broad-spectrum water resistant
- Employees and children will apply sunscreen liberally to clean, dry skin at least 20 minutes before going outside and reapply every two hours or more frequently if washed or wiped off
- To help develop independent skills ready for school, children from three years of age are given opportunities to apply their own sunscreen under supervision of staff, and are encouraged to do so
- Sunscreen will be stored in a cool place, out of the sun and expiry date monitor
- Sunscreen Registers will be completed daily
- Permission to apply sunscreen is included in the Service enrolment form
- Cancer Council recommends usage tests before applying a new sunscreen

Remember sunscreen filters UV radiation but doesn't completely block it out, which is why other sun safety precautions must be observed as well.

Busy Bees will ensure sun protection is part of the learning program, relevant information is promoted to families, and Sunscreen Registers are routinely completed for all children daily. Children learn why sun safety is important and how to practice effective sun protection.

If the child is unable to wear the sunscreen provided by the Service, the Family will need to provide an alternative sunscreen. Where a child is unable to wear sunscreen, written medical advice must be provided to the Service and the family must ensure the child is protected in the remaining four methods of protection from sun damage.

Busy Bees requests Families apply sunscreen to their child prior to attending the Service, or immediately upon arrival, and advise the Service employees when sunscreen has been applied to ensure registers are able to be completed accurately. Children will be encouraged to play in the shade for at least 20 minutes if sunscreen is applied upon the child's arrival into an outdoor environment.

SLAP on a Hat

- All children will wear a wide brim, bucket or legionnaires style hat that protects the face, neck, ears and crown of the head whenever they are outside or on an excursion. Hats will be worn by all team members, visitors and children within the Service when outdoors at all times
- Busy Bees Bucket hat brim dimensions will be at least 5cm wide for children under 8 years and 6cm for adults and children over 8 years. Please note: Baseball or visor style hats are not considered sun protective and are therefore not acceptable
- Children without a hat will be required to play in an area protected from the sun e.g., under dense shade, veranda or indoors, or can be provided a spare hat where possible

SEEK Shade

- Management ensures that there are sufficient shelters and trees providing shade in outdoor areas
- Children will be actively encouraged to use shade for outdoor play activity
- Outdoor activities will be planned to occur in shaded areas
- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all outdoor activities
- Cancer Council encourages regular shade assessments and the monitoring of existing shade structures, to assist in planning for additional shade

SLIDE on Sunglasses

Close-fitting wrap-around sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard AS 1067 will be encouraged.

Impact of sun on equipment

Employees will monitor the impact of the sun on play equipment and surfaces that children will be touching and using such as soft fall mats, artificial surfacing etc.

SOURCES

[ACECQA](#)

[National Quality Standard](#)

[Education and Care services National Regulations](#)

[Education and Care Service National Law Act 2010](#)

[Early Childhood Australia](#)

[Bureau of Meteorology - UV and Sun Protection](#)

[Cancer Council ACT](#)

[Cancer Council NSW](#)

[Cancer Council Northern Territory - SunSmart Early Childhood Program](#)

[Cancer Council Queensland](#)

[Cancer Council SA](#)

[Cancer Council Tasmania - SunSmart early childhood centres](#)

[Cancer Council Victoria](#)

[Cancer Council Western Australia](#)

[QLD Government - Sun protection in Queensland early childhood Services.](#)

[Raising Children - Sun Safety](#)

VERSION CONTROL

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years and/or in line with legislation and organisation requirements.

Version	Date	Owner	Responsibility	Change Description
1	01/10/2023	Chief Pedagogy & Safeguarding Officer	Policy Development Officer	Replace all previous versions
1.1	11/10/2023	Chief Pedagogy & Safeguarding Officer	Policy Development Officer	Updated for SunSmart Policy Approval.
2	11/10/2024	Chief Pedagogy & Safeguarding Officer	Policy Development Officer	Included QLD limited outdoor 10-3 advise.

This document is uncontrolled when printed and may be varied, replaced, or terminated without notice.