

Document Summary

Document Title	Clothing Policy	Revision / Publish Date	27/1/2010	Next Date for Review	20 January 2711
Revised By Author	Natalie Higgins	Approved By	Natalie Higgins & Sharon Carrafa	Policy Reference	OHS_policy_ clothing policy _21 April 2010.doc
Family Input Consultation: 3/6/2010 Parent Policy Review Committee Published to website 4/6/2010	Rachael West (10/7/2009) & Elise Dav (3/6/2010) Amanda Russell, P.Burns, Tamara Cracknell, Julie Kortholt, Kirsten Allen, J. Del maestro, Melanie Moxon, A.Volvrict, Julie Paget, Amanda, Sarah Tofield,	Team Member Input	Bree Hall Emma Hedley Alisha & TJ		
Revision History	Rev. 1 –01/2005 (Natalie Higgins) Rev. 2.- 10/07 (Natalie Higgins) Rev. 3. – 4/2010 (Natalie Higgins) Minor reformat, equity and diversity issues clearly linked in this version Rev. 4 – 06/2010 (Natalie Higgins) Parent Consultation recorded				

Purpose & Rationale

To ensure that children are comfortably and appropriately dressed throughout the day, especially in respect to weather conditions and the activities they are participating in over the course of the day.

Policy Statement

Best possible care of the children in the centre will be given if Team Members are aware of their needs and their comfort over the day. This will involve consideration of the clothing being worn in respect to weather conditions, activities they are involved in and rest and sleep requirements.

Consideration of the need for sun protection through appropriate dressing is outlined in the centre's Sun Protection Policy which should be read in conjunction with this policy.

Strategies to Support our Policy

Dressing for sun protection.

To be read in conjunction with the centre's Sun Protection Policy.

Keeping your child's skin covered with clothes made from tightly woven fabric such as t-shirt material will protect her from the sun. If you hold the fabric up to the light you can see how much sun will get through it. Cotton clothes with long sleeves and cotton leggings will keep her cooler than clothes made from acrylic fibres. You can also get baby clothes that are specially designed to block the sun and that indicate how protective they are. Look for them at Cancer Council shops.

Hats: A hat is a great way to protect your child from the sun. Look for a soft hat so she can still lie down comfortably while she's wearing it. A full crown hat with a full brim or a neck flap is better than a baseball cap because it provides more shade; a chin strap will help keep it on your baby's head.

Sunscreen: Sunscreen combined with clothing and shade is the most effective way to keep your child safe from sun and reflection. Use a SPF 30+ sunscreen on the face, hands and any other parts of your child that aren't covered by clothes. It will work better if you put it on 20 minutes before you go outside and reapply it every two hours. Sunscreens labelled 'for babies' or 'for infants' are less likely to cause skin irritation. A lotion is better than a heavy cream – you can also look for sunscreens that are free of PABA and non-alcoholic. Sunscreen with reflective particles like zinc or titanium dioxide provide the most protection and are less likely to irritate skin. Sunscreen stops working a couple of years after it is made, so look for a use-by date on any sunscreen you are buying.

Dressing for weather conditions.

Cold weather.

Parents will be asked to provide a warm jacket and hat during the winter months when outdoor play is still encouraged although it may be cold. Team Members will dress children in warm clothes provided before outdoor play. If warm clothes are not provided the centre will provide a spare jacket and hat which will be laundered after use. Children's jackets and hats will be stored in their lockers or on hooks located near their room. Team Members will model appropriate dress in these conditions. Shoes must be worn in cold weather.

Warm weather.

Shoes may be removed. Shoes **MUST** be worn when riding a bike. Team Members will model appropriate dress in these conditions.

Dressing for sleep and rest.

Parents will be asked to provide appropriate sheets and blankets according to seasonal needs. See the centre's Safe Sleeping Practices Policy which follows SID ACT recommendations for information on appropriate blankets.



Team Members will ensure that the room temperature is satisfactory for comfortable rest and sleep.

Restrictive clothing will be removed where necessary.

Shoes will be removed for rest and sleep.

Dressing for art and craft activities.

Children participating in messy art and craft activities will be encouraged to wear a protective apron.

Children who are not comfortable wearing the centre's aprons will be encouraged to wear an apron provided by the parent.

Parents will be encouraged to avoid sending children into the centre in very good clothes in order to avoid distress which may be caused if clothing is marked during art and craft activities.

Dressing for independence.

Children who are beginning to toilet train should be dressed in clothing which they can remove for toileting. For example, overalls are not appropriate and zips can be difficult for the young child.

Parents are asked to provide spare clothes for their child in accordance with their child's toileting competency

Shoes that are easier for the child to manage are encouraged. For example, shoes that the foot slips into relatively easily and shoes with Velcro rips can be easier to manage.

Dressing for play.

Parents are encouraged to send children to the centre in clothing which is appropriate for play. For example, long skirts which catch on climbing equipment are discouraged and very "special" clothes which may be marked or spoilt are discouraged.

Parents are asked not to send children in rubber thongs or rubber gum boots (unless it is raining).

Parents are asked to not send their children into the centre in "super hero" dress-ups.

Dressing to assist with nappy changes.

Parents are encouraged to dress babies and toddlers in clothes which are suited to easy nappy changes.

Respect for Children & Families

Staff will convey respect for children and an appreciation of their individuality by building in opportunities for them to make choices in relation to getting dressed, and the clothing they wear. However, issues relating to health, safety and the child's play and learning are the most important.

Staff will be aware of individual children's and families attitudes towards privacy and modesty when children are having their clothes changed or are dressing themselves. Older children will have access to safe comfortable and private spaces for dressing and changing. Staff will work with children and families to ensure that individual needs and preferences are understood and catered for. Respect is important in addressing issues about clothing with families.

Respecting Diversity

All efforts will be made to foster and support special cultural, religious or other special dress from families. Staff will work with families to have a better understanding of their particular cultural traditions regarding clothing and understand that there may be a range of cultural and religious issues related to dress. Staff will be respectful and understanding of families' choices.

Promoting Equity

Creating an environment where children of all genders can dress and wear clothing as they desire. Encouraging young children to enjoy and respect each other's choices in clothing.

Role Model

Staff are required to wear sunhats and sun safe clothing while outside, and wear clothing and shoes that are safe, and that allow them to comfortably and easily interact with and care for the children.

Labelling & Lost Property Management

It is a policy of the service that all clothing be labelled. The service will take active steps to ensure property is always returned to families by:

- Putting labelled clothing back in children's bags;
- Providing access is to key collection points of loss property which are routinely cleared (normally each quarter). At least two weeks notice will be provided (either in a letter or a newsletter) to families.

Links to Forms, Factsheets and Other Documentation which Support this Policy

DS & Kids. (2006). Sudden Unexpected Death in Infants (SUDI) frequently asked questions: SIDS & Kids: Safe sleeping in child care kit. NSW: Author.

- The Cancer Council NSW. (2006). SunSmart childcare: A policy guide for service providers. Sydney: Author.
- UNICEF (n.d.). Fact sheet: A summary of the rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Retrieved January



18, 2007, from http://www.unicef.org/crc/files/Rights_overview.pdf

Measuring Tools

Nil

Links to other Policies

Sunsmart Policy

QIAS Links

Principle 5.5: The centre promotes occupational health and safety

Sources

“Dressing baby for bed” (n.d), Raising Children Network retrieved 21 April 2010 from http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/dressing_baby_for_bed.html?highlight=clothing

“Safety in the sun” (n.d), Raising Children Network retrieved 21 April 2010 from http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/safety_in_the_sun.html?highlight=clothing

Safe sleeping practices for childcare services (n.d) retrieved 21 April 2010 from www.sidsandkids.org/childcarekit.html

SIDS and kids safe sleeping childcare kit (November 2005) Sunsmart (Victoria) Early Childhood- Sunsmart FAQs- facts sheet page 1- 5 (22 March 2006)

Legislative Act:

Occupational Health & Safety Act (2004)