



Peterborough Community Preschool
and Rural Care Services
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Clothing and Comfort Procedure

Rationale:

Effective clothing and comfort strategies, including sun protection clothing, are important factors in ensuring a child feels secure and safe in an education and care services and forms requirements for management and staff's duty of care.

The service endeavours to consult with families about their child's individual needs and to be aware of the different values and parenting beliefs, cultural or otherwise that are associated with clothing and footwear. It is understood by staff, children and families that there is a shared responsibility between the service and other stakeholders that the Clothing and Comfort Policy and procedures are accepted as high priority. In meeting the service's duty of care, it is a requirement that management and staff implement and adhere to the service's Clothing and Comfort Procedure.

The service defines "comfort" as a state of reassurance, satisfaction, ease, and free from anxiety or pain.

Children need:

- *Clothing that supports their play, learning and safety needs.
- *Support in the development of their self-help skills
- *The right to privacy and dignity

Parents need:

- *Their religious and cultural beliefs and practices to be respected
- *Communicate with the Service the changing needs of their child as they grow

*Support their child's play, learning and safety with appropriate clothing.

Staff need:

- *To be informed about the individual needs of the child
- *To be informed in their professional knowledge of safe sleeping clothing and practices as well as the child protection strategies in dealing with children dressing and undressing.
- *To develop strategies to deal with children who do not wish to comply with the procedure in the centre.

Management need:

- *To be informed of any issues in relation to the clothing and comfort procedure that may impact on the management of the service.

The Peterborough Community Preschool and Rural Care Services will implement this by:

Clothing and Footwear - Sleepwear

- *Staff will monitor the temperature of the environment and address children's clothing needs..
- *Children's sleep equipment meets Australian Standards.
- *Children will have any clothing that includes jumpers with hoods, ribbons, and cords removed to prevent the possibility of choking, as well as their socks and shoes, for sleeping.
- *Sleepwear should take into consideration the;
 - Child's age, safe resting practices established by the service, temperature of the rest environment, bed linen used for resting and individual needs.

Clothing for Messy Play

The service has waterproof smocks for protection when children are in messy play as required:

- *Painting and collage experiences
- *Clay or water play
- *Cooking

The staff communicates with the families the importance of appropriate, comfortable and practical clothing choices for children to play in that do not restrict their play experiences. These will include clothing and footwear that is:

Hard-wearing and suitable for normal play activities

- *Enclosed shoes that support the child to run, climb and kick, and are not slip on shoes or slippery shoes
- *Appropriate for the weather conditions and temperature
- *No singlets or strap tops
- *Footwear and clothing that promotes self - help skills and meets individual needs.
- *Lower clothing that can be easily removed for toileting.

Legislation:

Child Care Regulations 1998 (SA)

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2011

Education and Care Services Regulations 2011 (amended 2013)

References and useful websites:

www.sidsandkids.org/childcarekit.html

www.cyh.com.au

www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au

www.childhood.org.au

www.parenting.sa.gov.au

www.raisingchildren.net.au

Chairperson
Governing Council
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Director
Peterborough Community Preschool
and Rural Care Service.

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