



Peterborough Community Preschool  
and Rural Care Services

76-80 Victoria Street Peterborough SA 5422

Ph: (08) 8651 2550 Fax: (08) 8651 3456

[dl.6649.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.6649.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au)

# Hot Weather Policy

## Rationale:

Service provides a comfortable and safe environment for the children. Heating and cooling equipment provided to maintain a comfortable temperature for children.

All employees including leaders) must take reasonable care to protect their own health and safety and that of others in the site.

Site leader has a duty of care to behave in a manner no foreseeable harm befalls the individual(s) under their care as a result of any negligence on their part.

Effective clothing and comfort strategies, including sun protection clothing, are important factors in ensuring a child feels secure and safe in a child care service 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 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 Hot Weather Policy.

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.
- \*Shaded areas for outside play.
- \*Appropriate heating and cooling equipment is provided and maintained.
- \*Staff are to consider the risk of heat stress and that it is a factor of both air temperature and relative humidity.
- \*Drinking Water
- \*Food safe protocols.

## Parents need:

- \*To be aware of providing an environment which minimises the risk of heat related illness when delivering and collecting their children.
- \*Their religious and cultural beliefs and practices to be respected
- \*Information on Sun Smart and Hot Weather precautions.
- \*Support their child's play, learning and safety with appropriate clothing, shade, and drinking water.

## 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 in hot weather.
- \*To develop strategies to deal with children who do not wish to comply with the policies in the centre.

## Management need:

- \*To be informed of any issues in relation to the hot weather policy that may impact on the management of the service.

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

- \*Staff will monitor the temperature of the test environment and address children's clothing needs.
- \*Staff will monitor the temperature of rubber play surface, the green area at the end of the sand pit and the red area surrounding the bike track, before allowing children to play on these areas as these areas may become hot and risk a burn injury to the child.
- \*Staff will conduct activities in periods of hot weather under shaded areas and/or inside.
- \*Staff will frequently offer water and fluids to children.
- \*Staff should take sleepwear into consideration including;
  - Child's age, safe resting practices established by the service, temperature of the rest environment, bed linen used for resting and individual needs.

## Parents:

- \*Parents will be encouraged to dress their children in clothing that minimises heat gain, in layers that can be easily removed during activities and of a type that are Sun Safe. Children should not wear singlets or midriff tops.
- \*Parents will supply a bottle of drinking water for their child.
- \*Parents are to be encouraged to pack food in insulated containers with a freezer brick or frozen water.
- \*Parents are to consider the environment when they are delivering and collecting children.

## Site:

- \*Site is to provide a fridge for the storage of children's lunches and snacks.
- \*Site will allow parents to wait in preschool area when collecting their child if they are also collecting a child from the school to avoid being outside in the sun and heat.
- \*Site will provide an effective heating and cooling system and if these are not functioning during hot weather due to black-outs staff are to monitor temperature indoors, contact the service provided to ascertain when supply will resume and if necessary contact parent to collect child. This can only be evoked where the forecast is at least 36 degrees Celsius. Staff are to remain on duty and children unable to be collected are to be kept as comfortable as possible.
- \*Site will have a Bushfire Action Plan and implement it as required. They staff will contact the parents and ask that children be removed from the area and those children who are still in care will be monitored indoors following the action of the Bushfire Action Plan.

**Legislation:**

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2011

Education and Care Services Regulations 2011 (amended 2013)

**References and useful websites:**

[www.cancersa.org.au](http://www.cancersa.org.au)

[www.cyh.com](http://www.cyh.com)

[www.smartplay.com.au](http://www.smartplay.com.au)

DECD Hot Weather Policy - Preschools

---

Chairperson  
Governing Council  
201.....

---

Director  
Peterborough Community Preschool  
and Rural Care Service.

Adopted: 2010

Review Date: ....., 201.....