

GALLOPING GUMNUT MOBILE CHILDREN'S SERVICES VAN INC

SUN PROTECTION POLICY

STATEMENT:

The Management Committee and staff of Galloping Gumnut are aware that Australia has one of the highest incidences of skin cancer in the world. Research shows that most skin damage occurs during childhood and adolescence. The purpose of this policy is to reduce children's exposure to the sun and to protect them from skin damage caused by harmful ultraviolet rays.

OBJECTIVE:

To promote among children, staff and parents:

- Positive attitudes and an awareness of Sun exposure and Skin Protection.
- Lifestyle practices which can help reduce the effects of Sun exposure.
- Personal responsibility for and decision making about Sun and Skin Protection.

STRATEGY:

1. Implement a Sun Protection campaign to parents/children through the daily program, newsletters, pamphlets.
2. Implement a Staff Sun Protection program using websites, training and policy development and staff meetings.

IMPLEMENTATION:

PROGRAM 1

1. Children will wear a sun hat when outside.
2. Outdoor activities will be held in shaded area where possible.
3. The routine of the session (where possible) will be altered to accommodate hot sunny days. Play outside will be discouraged between the hours of 11am – 3pm.
4. The service will provide sunscreen to be applied to children each morning and afternoon before they play outdoors.
5. The enrolment forms will seek written permission from the parent/s for the use of sunscreen on their child. Parents will be encouraged to supply their own sunscreen if their child suffers any allergies or reactions to particular sunscreen. Allergies to sunscreen will be listed on the child's enrolment forms.
6. Staff may apply sunscreen at other times during the day when considered necessary.
7. Staff will practice skin protection behaviour such as wearing sun hats, applying sunscreen and wearing skin protective clothing. Staff must provide their own hat!
8. Staff will direct children to shaded areas where possible.
9. *Staff will encourage parents and children to be aware of the Sun Protection Policy, through discussion, newsletters, notices, etc.*
10. The Information Booklet will include information about what children should bring to the session, for example: sun hat, (Sunscreen if necessary).

11. Staff will encourage parents and families at all the sessions to use sun protective behaviours as positive role models for children.
12. Staff will encourage parents that have babies to keep them adequately covered from sun exposure and will encourage parents to keep them out of the sun when participating in outdoor activities.
13. Staff will encourage the drinking of water on hot sunny days. Staff will provide clean cups and jugs of water for children to drink throughout the day. Children will have access to their own drinks at all times throughout the day, and water will be provided in their drink bottles if a child finishes the drink that they have bought to the session.
14. Staff will ensure that the Program, Parent Library and activities encourage education and develop an awareness of positive Sun Protective behaviours.

PROGRAM 2

1. Director/Management Committee to provide information, education and training to staff regularly
2. Staff to read, discuss, implement and adhere to Sun Protection Policy
3. Provide information to staff at meetings and individual discussion.
4. Review policies and PPE regularly

RELATED DOCUMENTS/WEBSITES:

- NSW Children's Services Regulations 2004
- Sun Protection Information Sheets
- Cancer Council NSW – www.cancercouncil.com.au
- PPE Policy

MONITORING:

The Director will ensure that adequate information is made available to parents and staff via newsletters, notices and pamphlets.

Review program and routines with staff.