

Policy

Hot Weather

Please note, this policy must be read in conjunction with other relevant policy and procedural information provided on the approved provider's website including: [Inclement weather and sun protection \(edi.sa.edu.au\)](http://edi.sa.edu.au)

NQS

QA2	2.1.1	Each child's wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child's need for sleep, rest and relaxation.
QA2	2.2.1	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
QA3	3.1.1	Outdoor and indoor spaces, buildings, fixtures and fittings are suitable for their purpose, including supporting the access of every child.

NATIONAL REGULATIONS

Regs	114	Outdoor space - shade
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EYLF

LO1	Children feel safe, secure and supported
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Who is affected by this policy?

- Children
- Families
- Educators
- Governing Council

Aims

The aim of the Loxton Preschool Centre's Hot Weather Policy is to reduce the risk of heat illness to young children and educators.

Purpose

The purpose of our policy is to ensure that strategies are in place to reduce the risk of heat illness or burn injuries to children and educators from the heat of the sun while at preschool.

This policy recognises that children are at greater risk of suffering from heat illness than adults. A child's ability to respond to environmental heat and acclimatise to

heat is due to physiological differences.

“Children sweat less and get less evaporative cooling than adults. In warm and hot weather they have greater difficulty getting rid of heat; they look flushed, and feel hotter and more stressed than adults.”

Source 'Sports Medicine Australia', refer to www.sma.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/beat-the-heat-2011.pdf

Underpinning this policy is the fact that all employees, including leaders, must take reasonable care to protect their own health and safety and that of others in the preschool.

Implementation

At Loxton Preschool Centre we aim to keep everyone safe at all times and in particular during periods of hot weather.

The preschool will:

1. Provide a comfortable and safe environment for all children and educators.
2. Provide heating and cooling equipment to maintain a comfortable temperature for all children and educators.
3. Adhere to our Skin Protection Policy, which will be approved and periodically reviewed by the Cancer Council SA.
4. Recognise the risk of heat stress is a factor of both air temperature and relative humidity levels.
5. Assess the heat of play surfaces and equipment on days of extreme temperature and ensure children do not access the area of equipment when hot enough to place children at risk of burn injuries. (The main area to consider is the yellow slide as most other equipment is under shade).

Strategies to reduce the risk of heat illness will include:-

Shade:

During periods of hot weather activities will be conducted in shaded areas. Portable equipment will be removed from unshaded areas and either shifted into the shade or packed away.

During periods of extreme heat children will be required to remain under the veranda area or inside.

Drinks:

1. Drinking water will be accessible to children and educators at all times. Drink taps are provided.
2. Children and educators are encouraged to bring their own named drink bottle containing water and will be reminded to drink regularly. A fridge is provided inside for children and educators to store their water bottles if desired.
3. All children are given a cup of water to drink prior to commencing eating their lunch.
4. Educators are encouraged to drink water at regular intervals.

Play Equipment:

1. Educators will encourage children to check the temperature of slides, swings and other equipment by touching them carefully with their hand, prior to climbing on or using the said equipment.

Clothing:

Parents are encouraged to dress children in clothing that minimises heat gain, in layers that can be easily removed during activity and of a type that adheres with our Skin Protection Policy.

Sun-safe hats are to be worn when outside as per guidelines in our Skin Protection Policy. When hats are deemed necessary our "NO HAT, NO PLAY" rule is applied.

Refer to: www.arpansa.gov.au/understanding-radiation/radiation-sources/sun-radiation

Food Storage:

Food that children and educators bring to preschool will be stored in a cool place. Morning and afternoon fruit will be stored in the kitchen with items requiring refrigeration being placed in the fridge. All children's and educator's lunchboxes will be stored in the fridge for safe keeping.

Early Dismissal

As our preschool has effective cooling systems, we will remain open for normal operating hours.

Early dismissal guidelines for children accessing school bus transport will be followed in accordance with the Loxton Schools Hot Weather Policy.

Loxton Preschool Centre will be open when the Riverland Fire Ban District is classified as "Catastrophic" by the Bureau of Meteorology. However no school buses will run. Refer to [Loxton Preschool Centre Preparation for Catastrophic Days](#) procedure.

Sources

- Early Years Learning Framework (v2.0, 2022)
- National Quality Standard
- Cancer Council SA
- [Inclement weather and sun protection \(edi.sa.edu.au\)](http://edi.sa.edu.au)
- Sports Medicine Australia
- Consultation process completed and feedback included from children, staff, families, Cancer Council SA and Governing Council members

Review

The policy will be reviewed bi-annually.

Review will be conducted by:

- Governing Council
- Educators/Employees
- Families
- Interested Parties

Document History	Version	Approved Date	Description of Change	Next Review Date
	1.0	01/12/2016	Policy Developed	01/12/2018
Reviewed	2.0	15/08/2019	Updated in line with NQS changes	15/08/2021
Reviewed	3.0	29/06/2021	No Changes	29/06/2023
Reviewed	4.0	04/12/2023	All links have been verified Updated in line with Early Years Learning Framework (v2.0, 2022)	04/12/2025

Approved by Governing Council 04/12/2023 Director's Signature 