



Hot Weather Policy

At Cowell Early Childhood Centre we aim to keep everyone safe at all times and in particular during periods of hot weather. Reasonable steps will be taken to identify and manage risks, and every reasonable precaution will be taken to protect children from harm and hazards.

The preschool will:

- Provide a comfortable and safe environment for all children.
- Provide heating and cooling to maintain a comfortable temperature for all children.
- Recognise and take into account that 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

Strategies to reduce the risk of heat illness will include:

Shade

- During periods of hot weather activities will be conducted in shaded areas.

Drinks

- Children bring a drink bottle to the centre and are reminded to have a drink.

Clothing

- Families will be encouraged to dress children in clothing that minimises heat gain, in layers that can be easily removed during activity and a type that is 'Sun Safe'.

Sunscreen

- Families are encouraged to apply sunscreen to their children before coming to the centre. However as per our SunSmart policy, staff will apply 30+ sunscreen daily and re-apply when necessary. If a child has an allergy to the centre's sunscreen we ask that families pack an alternative sunscreen.

Lunch

- Families are encouraged to pack food in insulated containers with a freezer brick or frozen water. The preschool will provide a cool place to store food.

The following measures will apply on days when the UV radiation levels are high and when educators feel conditions warrant it:

- Modified outdoor activities will be offered to children in the morning. These will be located in shaded areas.
- There will be no outdoor activities offered in the afternoon and children will remain indoors.
- Children who attend preschool in the afternoon will eat their snack indoors.

Cowell Early Childhood Centre recognise heat related injuries parents may experience when they deliver and collect children and therefore, we encourage families to use the veranda and come into the air-conditioned building.

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Sarah Chase – Director

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Jodi Gregory – Governing Council Chairperson