



Clothing Policy

Background:

Australia has a varied climate. Seasonal changes produce cold & hot changes throughout the year. Many young children are unable to control or monitor their body temperature without assistance. Further to this, ill-fitting or inappropriate clothing can & does contribute to childhood injury & illness. Our service recognises the duty of care we have to ensure that children under our care are protected from varying weather conditions. As well as the importance of ensuring the children are in comfortable & appropriate conditions

Aim:

- To promote a safe environment for all children & reduce the chance of injury & illness. To ensure all children are dressed appropriately with respect to individual children's cultural background & values & in accordance with changing weather conditions
- To ensure all children are dressed according to current 'Sun Smart' guidelines (see also Sun protection policy)

Legislative requirements / Sources:

National Law section 165: Offence to inadequately supervise children
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 Reg 81: Sleep and rest
National Quality Standard 2.1.2 Each child's comfort is provided for and there are appropriate opportunities to meet each child's need for sleep, rest and relaxation
Kid Safe NSW (www.kidsafe.com.au)
Anne Stonehouse: Children's Clothing in Child Care NCAC fact sheet (2008)
NSW Cancer Council
Teething Necklace information (www.productsafety.gov.au)

Implementation:

- Parents are encouraged to provide their children with seasonably appropriate and correctly sized clothing
- Children should attend our service in comfortable casual play clothes. The children will be engaging in messy play activities that may include paint, clay, goop etc. Our service does have aprons that provide some protection to clothing
- Parents should provide a spare set of labeled clothing each time their child attends our service. This is helpful in the instance that a child has a toileting accident, gets wet engaging in water play etc
- Our service has spare clothing that can be used by the children if they have no spare change of clothing or weather conditions change quickly. Parents are requested to wash and return to our service any spare clothing their child may utilise during the day
- Parents are encouraged to provide shoes that are well fitted and provide suitable grip so children are able to climb, run and explore the environment as safely as possible.

Our Service will:

- Ensure educators and staff role model wearing appropriate clothing and footwear according to changing seasonal conditions and in accordance with our sun protection policy, staff dress code policy and WHS policy
- Educators will discuss weather changes and changes of the season with the children and reinforce the importance of dressing appropriately according to prevailing weather conditions
- Respect the rights of families in regard to cultural and religious aspects of dress
- Educators will monitor the children to ensure they are dressed to suit prevailing weather conditions
- Ensure children are dressed comfortably, appropriately and safely for sleep and rest

Our parents will be requested:

- During warmer months to provide clothing that covers and protects the shoulders, tops of the arms and back of the neck preferably made from cotton to ensure the children are as cool as possible
- To supply a legionnaire style hat or a broad brimmed hat to protect the children's face, ears, and back of neck (see sun protection policy for more information)
- To provide enclosed shoes or well fitted sandals, as other forms of footwear are a risk when children are running or climbing or engaging in physical activities
- During cooler months provide warm coats or jackets for outdoor play
- To provide enclosed and supportive footwear
- To provide a spare change of warm clothing

Footwear:

- Our service encourages parents to dress their children in appropriate footwear. Inappropriate footwear includes thongs, slippers, shoes with heels and slip on shoes

The fore mentioned footwear may inhibit the children's play experience or possibly contribute to injury

- Good fitting appropriate footwear assists with the protection and support of children's growing feet.

Due to safety reasons we ask that the following clothing not be worn by children whilst at our service:

- Singlet tops, sleeveless tops or shoe string dresses
- Thongs
- Scarves

Jewellery & accessories

- We would prefer small items of jewellery not to be worn by the children to the service as it can become lost or misplaced. In this instance the jewellery item may become a choking hazard for smaller children attending the service
- Staff of our service will not be held responsible for lost or misplaced jewellery
- Teething necklaces worn during the day will be checked that they are securely fastened. Teething necklaces will be removed for sleeping and put back on when the child wakes (this is due to choking concerns)

Clothing and Early Childhood Education

Children need to wear clothing that fosters independence. By having loose fitting clothing and clothing that has child friendly buttons and zips, will allow the children to develop and practice self-help skills like dressing and toileting.

Clothing such as overalls and one piece outfits can present children with difficulties when undertaking and practicing these self- help skills.

Labelling clothing and lost property

- Parents should ensure all their children's clothing is labeled
- Staff will place labelled clothing into children's bags
- Any unlabelled clothing will be placed into a lost property basket in each room
- Lost property will be removed at the conclusion of each month. It may be used as spare clothing for our service or will be donated to charity

Review:

This policy is the intellectual property of Maryland Care & Early Education Centre and is created with consultation of staff and families attending the service. This policy will be reviewed annually. This policy is available in other languages upon request.

Last Review: July 2015.

Next Review: July 2016.