



Preschool Hot Weather Policy

NQS: 2.3

Regulation: 168 (2) (a) (ii)

This policy recognises that children are at a 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." "Sports Medicine Australia"

Crucial to this policy is

- All employees, including leaders, must take reasonable care to protect their own health and safety and that of others in the Pre School.
- All employees ensure strategies are in place to reduce the risk of heat illness or burn injuries.

At Renmark North Preschool we aim to keep everyone safe at all times. 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.
- Recognise the risk of heat stress is a factor of both air temperature and relative humidity levels.
- During hot weather check all surfaces in the preschool ensuring children are not at risk of contact burn injuries.

Strategies to reduce the risk of heat illness will include:

During periods of hot weather, activities will be conducted inside or in shaded areas. On days of rising heat (just below the hot weather day temperature) we will have modified activities outside in the morning and no activities outside in the afternoon.

Children will be required to bring a drink bottle, containing water and children will be reminded to drink regularly. Staff will top up water bottles with rainwater as necessary.

Parents are reminded to dress their children in appropriate clothing- that minimises heat gain and maximises sun protection.

Hot Weather days

The following measures will apply on days when the UV radiation levels are high and the temperature is above 38 degrees. We will link with the school hot weather policy of outdoor use and outdoor play periods, which is: if the predicted temperature from the previous night's news is 38 degrees Celsius or more the Principal (or nominated person) will declare a hot weather day. The temperature is checked as the day progresses and if the temperature rises above 38 degrees Celsius the hot weather policy is acted upon and all activities will be indoors. Days less than 38 degrees may also be declared as hot weather should other conditions make the day inappropriate for outdoor use.

As our preschool has effective cooling we do not have an early dismissal clause, however over a string of hot weather days the inside temp and or humidity will rise and make it difficult for the air conditioners to work effectively. It is therefore the parent's discretion to keep their children at home on extreme heat days.

References:

1. Inclement weather procedure

Verified by: Renmark North School Governing Council 8/12/16

Review due: March 2020

