Morphett Vale East Kindergarten
Sunsmart and Hot Weather Policy

Rationale
To avoid future health problems for staff and children.
‘Skin cancer rates are higher in Australia than anywhere else in the world. It is the most common form of cancer in Australia affecting all age groups with skin cancers accounting for about 80% of all cancers diagnosed each year in Australia.’

From The Cancer Council S.A.

Policy statement
Staff ensure that there are appropriate steps taken to safeguard users of the centre.

Responsibilities
• Parents must provide their child with a hat all year round and apply sunscreen on their child prior to attending our centre everyday.

• Restrictions to outside play and the timetable changed to accommodate peak UV conditions (over 35 or warranted). ie. Outside play activities will be rescheduled to avoid the UV danger times of 10am – 3pm, between 1st Sept until 30th April.

• In extreme UV and heat conditions staff need to manage outside supervision to minimise their risks as well as the children’s (ie. Have half a session outside rather than a whole one or do not go outside). It should be noted that ‘UV levels are not related to temperature, so there can be very high levels of UV on cooler days.’ From the Cancer Council SA

• Everyone asked to wear 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen in peak UV conditions. Notices in the newsletter to ask that sunscreen be applied on children prior to arrival.

• Children accessing full days need to reapply sunscreen prior to going outside in the afternoon. Re-application to occur 20 minutes prior to going outside and reapplication every four hours. Parents need to sign a form upon enrolment giving permission for this to occur. This ensures children with allergies are provided for. If parents choose to provide their own sunscreen for their child it must be clearly named and kept on top of the fridge in the kitchen not in children’s bags.

• Good behaviours concerning appropriate choices for high heat and peak UV conditions are modelled by staff and taught explicitly in the curriculum i.e. drinking plenty of water, restricting vigorous activity, playing in shady areas, wearing clothing that provides adequate skin
protection (eg no midriff or singlet tops) and discussions, songs and stories that reinforce sun safety behaviours.

- Everyone using the centre (including parents, volunteers, playgroup families) asked to wear either legionnaire or broad-brimmed hats when outside (caps are not appropriate). The cancer council’s recommendations now have ‘healthy sun exposure’ and we require some exposure to the sun. Therefore, hats are required all year round but during the months May- August (when UV levels below 3) children are able to wear winter hats or beanies.

This policy was endorsed by the Governing Council on……………

Date : ..................................................21/3/2014  
Chairperson : ...............................Nicole Williams  
Director : .................................Kerri Willmott  

Policy was reviewed / /