MICHELLE DeGARIS MEMORIAL KINDERGARTEN

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MICHELLE DEGARIS MEMORIAL KINDERGARTEN
SKIN PROTECTION POLICY

Reason for Michelle Degaris Memorial Kindergarten introducing a skin protection policy

Because the country in which we live has a hot dry climate, our population is predominately fair skinned, and the incidence of skin cancers is increasing, we feel a need to promote the awareness of skin protection in the families who utilize our centre.

We believe it important to educate children at a young age on skin protection, and damage the ultra violet rays can do, as children’s skin is very tender, and susceptible to damage from the sun, which lasts a lifetime.

We also believe a positive attitude to skin protection awareness is a good building block for the children’s future, and provide a curriculum basis to the implications on our health if we do not undertake skin protection practices.

Aims

The aims of the Michelle DeGaris Memorial Kindergarten skin protection policy are:

- to promote skin protection awareness in the children, parents and staff of our centre.
- to promote a positive attitude and personal responsibility toward skin protection
- to show how changing our lifestyle and protecting our skin can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer.

Implementing the Michelle DeGaris Memorial Kindergarten Skin Protection Policy.

This policy will be implemented for the whole of the year, and particularly enforced for the period between September 1st and April 30th and when ultraviolet radiation (UVR) level is 3 and above, and at other times, to ensure that all users of our centre are protected from harmful ultra violet rays, and subsequent skin damage.

Children, staff, parents and visitors of the Michelle DeGaris Memorial Kindergarten will be encouraged to follow these skin protection rules.

1. To wear sun safe clothing to protect the skin:
   a. Broad brimmed or legionnaire style hats are to be packed in children’s bags all year round. These will be worn at all times for outdoor activities between September 1st and April 30th, and at the discretion of staff for other times.
   b. Parents will be encouraged to dress children in collared shirts with at least elbow length sleeves, and knee length shorts or skirts

2. Parents will be requested to apply a broad spectrum 30+ sunscreen to their children before bringing them to their session. Staff will re-apply sunscreen at lunchtime.

3. Outdoor activities will be restricted to the shaded areas of the centre to avoid direct sunlight, especially between the hours of 11am and 3pm. The shade of trees will be utilized for water activities, outdoor painting and games, and activities in the covered sandpit area will be encouraged.

4. Staff and parents will be encouraged to be role models for our skin protection policy to help introduce Sun Smart behaviour in the children

5. The Michelle DeGaris Memorial Kindergarten Sun Protection policy will be evaluated on an ongoing basis. Policy issues will be discussed by staff and parents at Governing Council meetings.