



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education



# *Penong & Coorabie Districts School*

## *Early Learning Centre*

*"Learning Together"*

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## **Penong Early Learning Centre Skin Protection Policy**

### **Rationale**

Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world with two out of three people developing some form of skin cancer before they are 85.

Skin damage, including cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Sun exposure in the first ten years of life determines, to a substantial degree, the likelihood of skin cancer developing.

### **Aims**

The aim of the "Penong early Learning centre Skin protection Policy" is to promote among young children, staff and parents.

- Positive attitudes towards skin protection
- Lifestyle practices which can help reduce the incidences of skin cancer and the number of related deaths.
- Personal responsibility for the decision making about skin protection.
- Awareness of the need for environmental changes in our centre to reduce the level of sun exposure when UV radiation is 3 and above.

### **Implementation**

Due to our location our policy is that hats will be worn each term as is our schools policy. The purpose of the policy is to ensure that all members of our early Childhood Service are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful rays of the sun.

It is an expectation that all staff and parents of Penong early Learning Centre will use the following skin protection strategies.

#### **1. Take care to protect the skin. Extra care should be taken between 10am and 3pm when UV radiation levels are highest.**

1.1 Lunch/snack is eaten in the shade

1.2 Whenever possible outdoor activities will be scheduled indoors or in the shaded areas of the service on hot days (when UV levels are high).

#### **2. Use the shade of trees and shade structure whenever outdoors.**

2.1 Outdoor activities where possible will be in the shaded area.

2.2 The further provision of shade areas is a priority for the service.

**3. Wear appropriate clothing which protects the skin.**

3.1 children and staff will be expected to wear a bucket hat whenever involved in outside activities.

3.2 Appropriate sun protective clothing is to be worn eg. Shirts or dresses that cover the shoulders- no singlets or midriff allowed.

**4. Apply broad –spectrum, water resistant sunscreen with an SPF of 30+, 15-20 minutes before going outdoors for lunch or activities. During terms 1/4.**

4.1 parents will be encouraged to apply sunscreen on their children as they arrive at the centre or apply before leaving home.

4.2 Sunscreen is supplied by the centre for children's use.

4.3 Sunscreen will be applied before children's morning outdoor activities.

**5. Reinforcing the SunSmart message in all service activities and general service procedures is an important strategy in the adoption of skin protection behaviours.**

5.1 Staff will be encouraged to role model appropriate SunSmart strategies in all service activities.

5.2 Skin cancer prevention will be included in appropriate teaching activities.

5.3 Information about the centre's sunSmart Policy will be given to all new staff, students and families.

**6. Sun protection and babies. Babies skin is thinner than adult's skin; it is extremely sensitive and can burn easily. Babies can be at risk of sunburn even when they are in the shade. If infants are kept out of direct sun or well protected from UV radiation by clothing, hats and shade sunscreen need only be used occasionally on very small amounts of their exposed skin.**

6.1 We will endeavour to keep babies in shaded areas at all times.

**7. The "Penong Early Learning Centre's Skin Protection Policy" will be evaluated on a 2 yearly basis.**

7.1 policy issues will be discussed at staff and Management Committee Meetings.