

Policy Document No: ELC14
Category: Early Learning
Topic: Children's Clothing



Date of Issue: August 2007
Last Review Date: December 2016

Considerations

Philosophy: Children's safety, health and wellbeing are fundamental to their development.

Children's needs: A safe and caring environment in which children's needs and comfort is met.

Families' needs: Their child's health wellbeing, comfort and safety are met; cultural needs recognised and individual parenting styles respected.

Staff needs: Children to be dressed appropriately for play; co-operative parents that understand children's clothing needs.

Management needs: Staff knowledge includes up to date information on best practice; staff role model appropriate dress standards.

Legislation and Sources

Staying Healthy in Child Care by Australian Government, Canberra

Early Childhood Australia website – www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au

Children, Youth & Women's Health Service – Child & Youth Health – www.cyh.com

SunSmart Childcare: A guide for service providers – The Cancer Council – www.cancerwa.asn.au

Guide to the National Quality Standard, element 2.1.2

Policy Statement

It is the aim of the College to ensure the safety and comfort of all children by providing appropriate clothing guidelines for children, parents and staff utilising or working in the early learning centres. Children being clothed appropriately enables them to play without risk of sunburn and serious injury caused by inappropriate footwear or clothing. Children are more at ease, reassured, satisfied and less anxious when they are: dressed for warmth during winter or not over-dressed during summer, or wearing safe footwear when climbing outdoor play equipment or participating in sport.

- Effective clothing strategies, including sun protection clothing, are important factors in ensuring a child feels safe and secure in our Early Learning Centres.
- The service endeavours to consult with families about their child's individual needs and to be aware of the different values and parenting beliefs, cultural or otherwise that are associated with clothing and footwear.
- Staff will consider children's comfort and safety at all times, and adjust each child's clothing throughout the day when necessary.

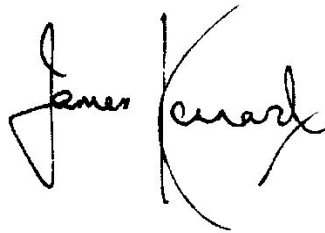
How the policy will be implemented – Specific practices and procedures

- Staff will ensure children are dressed appropriately in relation to
 - weather conditions
 - children's activities
 - children's age and mobility
- Children will be required to wear clothing that will provide protection from harmful UV rays in the warmer months. (Refer to Sun Protection Policy.)
- Children will be encouraged to remove jumpers for sleep time, while staff will monitor the temperature of the room to ensure comfort for all.

- Staff will encourage children's independence in dressing and undressing and allow sufficient time for children to practice and master these skills within the daily routines of the centre.
- Staff will discuss the most appropriate clothing with children in relation to the weather, the seasons, different activities, indoor and outdoor play etc.
- The parents will be encouraged to supply sufficient spare clothing to ensure children are kept comfortable and dry at all times.
- Soiled/wet clothing will be placed in plastic bags to be returned to the parent when they arrive to collect their child.
- Parents are asked to name each piece of their child's clothing and shoes, to avoid loss or any mix-up in clothing.
- The centre will provide protective clothing to be worn during messy activities.
- Children will be required to wear their shoes at all times whilst outdoors, to avoid injury or insect stings.
- Children are required to wear appropriate footwear. 'Crocs' and thongs are not allowed at kinder.
- Staff will role model appropriate clothing at all times – including sun hats during summer.

Approved by the College Principal;

Date: December 2016

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Keen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'K'.