

8.12 Sun Safety and Sunscreen

Policy statement

At [Victoria Park Day Nursery CIC](#), we are committed to protecting children, staff and visitors from the harmful effects of ultraviolet (UV) radiation. We recognise that excessive exposure to the sun can cause skin damage and increase the risk of skin cancer later in life. We therefore take appropriate measures to ensure children can enjoy outdoor play safely while being protected from excessive sun exposure.

Aims

The aims of this policy are to:

- Protect children from overexposure to the sun.
- Promote safe outdoor play and learning.
- Ensure parents and carers are aware of our sun safety policy and procedures
- Encourage positive sun protection habits from an early age.

Procedures

Outdoor play

During periods of strong sunshine, particularly between 11:00am and 3:00pm, staff will:

- Encourage children to play in shaded areas where possible.
- Plan outdoor activities to minimise prolonged exposure to direct sunlight.
- Ensure children have regular access to drinking water to prevent dehydration.
- Monitor children for signs of overheating or sunburn.

Clothing and hats

Parents and carers are asked to provide:

- Lightweight, loose-fitting clothing that covers the shoulders.
- A wide brimmed or legionnaire style sun hat that is clearly named.
- Suitable footwear for outdoor play (no flip flops, sliders or open toed sandals).

Children will be encouraged to wear their hats whenever they are outdoors in sunny weather.

Sunscreen

- Parents/carers must apply sunscreen to their child before attending the setting.
- A broad-spectrum sunscreen with a minimum SPF 30 is recommended.
- Where written parental consent has been provided, staff may assist children in reapplying sunscreen during the day as required
- Sunscreen will be applied in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Staff will encourage children, where appropriate to develop independence in applying sunscreen while ensuring adequate coverage.

Parental responsibilities

Parents and carers are responsible for:

- Completing consent for sunscreen application on the registration form
- Informing the setting of any allergies or adverse reactions to sunscreen products. If this is the case, the parent/carer will need to provide the sunscreen that the child can use and that it is clearly named.

Staff responsibilities

Staff will:

- Follow the procedures outlined in this policy.
- Promote sun safety awareness among children.
- Ensure children have access to shade and drinking water.
- Record and report any concerns relating to sun exposure, heat related illness or adverse reactions to sunscreen.

Inclusion and Equality

The setting recognises that children have different skin types and individual needs. Sun protection measures will be applied consistently while taking into account of any medical conditions, allergies or cultural considerations. If a parent/carer does not wish for sunscreen to be used, they should discuss the matter with the setting manager/deputy as soon as possible. The child will be encouraged to play indoors due to health and safety reasons. We have a duty of care to make sure children are not at risk in any way.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if legislation, guidance or operational requirements change.