

## CLOTHING POLICY

<b>Related Quality Area</b>	QA2: Health and Safety
<b>Related Policies</b>	Sun Protection Policy

### PURPOSE

Children need protective, comfortable and appropriate clothing and footwear to explore their environment and participate freely in experiences. Clothing needs to protect children from injury and sun exposure whilst promoting self-help abilities. Appropriate footwear will fit a child's foot correctly and ensure comfort. Educators will also dress to prevent injury and sun exposure and will be encouraged to dress professionally and respectfully, being positive role models for children. We aim to ensure the safety and comfort of all children by providing appropriate clothing guidelines for children, parents and staff utilising and working at the Centre.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management, and visitors to the Centre.

### IMPLEMENTATION

Effective clothing strategies, including appropriate clothing for sun protection, are important factors in ensuring a child feels safe and secure at our Centre.

#### MANAGEMENT/ NOMINATED SUPERVISOR WILL:

- Ensure that a Sun Safety Policy is developed and maintained.
- Ensure that educators are provided with personal protective equipment (e.g. gloves, goggles etc.) as required to facilitate cleaning and protect their health and safety.
- Provide information for educators about suitable clothing and footwear expectations for the education and care work environment.
- Provide information for families about suitable clothing and footwear for their children. This information will also be available at the Centre using a variety of communication strategies including newsletters, induction handbook and posters.
- Ensure educators are aware and abide by the Sun Safety Policy.

#### EDUCATORS WILL:

- Consult and communicate with families about the individual needs of children concerning different values and beliefs associated with clothing and footwear.
- Monitor children's clothing and footwear to ensure compliance with the Sun Protection Policy and to support the safety, comfort, and well-being of every child.
- Consider clothing and footwear needs associated with excursions or planned learning experiences and communicate clearly with families about the need for extraordinary protective clothing requirements.
- Provide protective clothing, such as aprons, for messy play experiences and painting. Children will be encouraged by educators to wear protective clothing during messy and water play.
- Encourage children to remove shoes and heavy or excess layers of clothing during rest times to reflect the room temperature, as recommended practice by Red Nose.
- Take off children's jumpers and jackets with hoods during rest time to ensure children's safety.

- Encourage children to use their self-help skills where appropriate to put on and remove clothing and shoes to meet their needs. Educators will observe and monitor younger children to ensure their clothing and footwear is appropriate for the environment and weather conditions.
- Monitor the UV rating to ensure children are dressed appropriately for the weather and are adequately protected (e.g. long sleeve shirts).
- Discuss clothing with children: for example, the need to wear hats for sun protection.
- Model appropriate clothing: for example, wearing hats and sun-safe clothing.
- Convey respect for children and appreciate their individuality, whilst developing their understanding of safe clothing and footwear for play and the weather.
- Encourage children to make choices in relation to getting dressed and the clothing they wear.
- Respect children's privacy and modesty when having children change their clothes or dress themselves, ensuring that individual and/ or cultural needs and preferences are understood and catered for.

#### FAMILIES WILL:

- Provide spare clothing in children's bags to allow for dirty or soiled clothing and changing weather conditions.
- Dress children appropriately for play and the weather, including footwear and an appropriate hat.
- Children who attend Pre-School are required to bring a rain jacket to the Centre during the wet season. This is the parent's/families responsibility to ensure their child has a raincoat packed in their bag.
- Ensure their Child is clothed in an appropriate manner which will allow them to explore and play freely and not restrict them from using the equipment while at play.
- Ensure clothing also allows easy access for toileting: i.e. elasticised trousers or track pants rather than buttons, zips, belts, etc.
- Not dress their children in good/expensive clothing where there is a chance they will get dirty or stained.
- Not have amber teething necklaces or bracelets on their children while attending the Centre. This is to minimise the risk they may choke on the beads if the necklaces or bracelets break apart.
- Ensure children are appropriately protected from the sun - please refer to *Sun Safety Policy* for further directives on hats and clothing.
- Ensure children's clothing accommodates the weather conditions. For example, be loose and cool in summer to prevent overheating and warm enough for cold weather, including outdoor play. At all times educators will monitor children to ensure they are appropriately dressed for all weather, play experiences, rest and sleep routines.
- Ensure children have appropriate footwear for children who will be attending excursions.
- Ensure all clothing and belongings are clearly labelled with the child's name. If a child's belonging goes missing and is not labelled, it is not the staff's responsibility to look for them.
- Be familiar with their child's clothing fabric to minimise allergies and reactions.

#### STAFF CODE OF DRESS:

Nightcliff Family Centre has an expectation that Educators dress appropriately and professionally.

The Centre will provide a polo shirt by way of uniform. Educators are encouraged to wear Sun Smart clothing, closed in shoes are compulsory and a hat when out in the sun.

The Centre does not accept ripped, torn, dirty or un-ironed clothing on staff at the Centre. Shoes must be in good repair. Clothing with inappropriate language or promotion of drugs/alcohol is unacceptable. If unacceptable clothing is worn to the centre the Educator will be sent home to change and be required to make up the lost time.

### SPECIAL CLOTHES/DRESS UP

To facilitate pretend play and celebrate different cultural experiences children and educators may be invited and encouraged to dress up according to a theme or particular cultural celebration.

Our educators will communicate with families to ensure all children have the opportunity to engage in these activities by wearing appropriate clothing.

When dressing their child in 'dress up' clothes, parents are asked to ensure their child's footwear is appropriate for play-based learning at the Service and ensure clothing is sun safe.

### POLICY REVIEW:

This policy will be reviewed by the Director and Management Committee triennially unless there are any regulatory or legislative requirements and/or any feedback from staff, parents and the community.

### REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED BY	Judy Rondon	Director	SEPTEMBER 2022
POLICY REVIEWED	SEPTEMBER 2022	NEXT REVIEW DATE	SEPTEMBER 2024
MODIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No changes or Additional information added</li><li>• Sources checked for currency</li><li>• Spell check</li></ul>		

POLICY REVIEWED BY	Judy Rondon Hannah West	Director Chairperson	September 2025
POLICY REVIEWED	September 2025	NEXT REVIEW DATE	September 2028
MODIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sources checked for currency</li><li>• Spell check</li><li>• 1 x section added</li></ul>		