HOT WEATHER POLICY

This policy will recognise that children are at greater risk of suffering from heat illness than adults. A child’s ability to respond to environmental heat and acclimatise to heat is due to physiological differences.

“Children sweat less and get less evaporative cooling than adults. In warm and hot weather they have greater difficulty getting rid of heat; they look flushed, and feel hotter and more stressed than adults”

Source “Sports Medicine Australia”, refer to:

The Stirling East Kindergarten will remain open for the duration of the normal pre-school day as the centre has air conditioning.

In the event parents wish to collect their child early during extreme weather conditions, parents are welcome to do so. Parents must inform the teacher in charge when collecting their child and sign out in the usual manner.

Health and safety of children during hot weather

Shade Activities conducted in periods of hot weather are to be undertaken in shaded areas. The children will have access to the outdoor learning environment in the morning but during extreme heat 38 degrees and above will be kept inside for the afternoon.

Drinks Children are to be frequently offered water or fluids and the centre has a water filter for drinking water. Children must have a water bottle.

Clothing Parents are to be encouraged to dress children in clothing that minimises heat gain, in layers that can be easily removed during activity and of a type that is sunsafe.

Lunch Parents are to be encouraged to pack food in insulated containers with a freezer brick or frozen water.

Excursions Any outdoor excursions will be cancelled and rescheduled during extreme weather over 38 degrees.

Energy Conservation Where practical, non essential energy use will be minimised e.g. lighting.

Power Outages In the event that the centre is without power, children will be kept on site wherever possible, provided that they can be kept safe and comfortable. For outages of an extended period of time, decisions will be made in consultation with the DECD Education Director Office about operating arrangements. Parents will be contacted should they need to collect their child/ren.

Reviewed October 2014

Director

Chairperson

Next review due 2016