



MICHELLE DeGARIS MEMORIAL KINDERGARTEN

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MICHELLE DEGARIS MEMORIAL KINDERGARTEN **HOT WEATHER PROCEDURE**

This procedure recognises 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:

www.sma.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/beat-the-heat-2008-email-version.pdf

All our programs (including occasional care) pay particular attention to strategies to reduce the risk of heat illness in younger children.

This procedure considers the inclusion of strategies to reduce the risk of heat illness in young children, such as:

Shade Activities conducted in periods of hot weather are to be undertaken in shaded areas.

Drinks - Children are to be frequently offered water or fluids.

Drinking water is to be accessible to children at all times.

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.

Refer www.arpansa.gov.au/radiationprotection/factsheets/is_UVProtection.cfm

Lunch - Parents are to be encouraged to pack food in insulated containers with a freezer brick or frozen water. Sites are to provide a cool place to store food.

With in Michelle DeGaris' hot weather procedure, we have considered the characteristics of the site such as:

- location of the site - Naracoorte;
- building design (e.g. north facing, verandah; and
- effectiveness of our ventilation/cooling system
- Michelle DeGaris Memorial Kindergarten's Bushfire Action Plan.

Our rubber play surfaces will be assessed by a staff member to ensure children do not access the area or equipment when hot enough to place children at risk of burn injuries.

Refer to <http://www.childcare.sa.gov.au/ybsproviders/pages/ChildCareLicensingandStandards/news>

As we have an effective cooling system we will remain open for normal

operating hours. A contingency plan will manage events which affect

normal functioning during hot weather, such as blackouts and breakdown of cooling systems. Early

dismissal is only to be evoked where the forecast is at least 36 degrees Celsius. Staff are to remain on

duty on days of early dismissal. Children who are unable to be collected must be adequately

supervised by staff and kept as comfortable as possible. The interest of the children and local

circumstances such as frequency and timing of transport services (including school buses) are to be

paramount consideration. This procedure is cross- referenced to our a sun protection procedure

which complies with the recommendations of the Cancer Council of SA;

www.cancersa.org.au/aspx/sunsmart.aspx as a SunSmart centre.