

# HOT WEATHER POLICY

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At Carol Murray Children's Centre we implement the following appropriate measures to protect children, staff and families from the risk of heat stress.

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Heat Stress is a can be contributed to by both air temperature and relative humidity levels. At Carol Murray Children's Centre we will apply the following strategies to reduce the risk of Heat Stress:

## **For Children:**

- **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.
- **Lunch** Parents are to be encouraged to pack food in insulated containers with a freezer brick or frozen water. Sites are to provide an appropriate place to store food.
- **In extreme heat conditions-( above 36 degrees celsius)** activities will be encouraged within the centre in a comfortable environment.

## **Staff:**

- must take reasonable care to protect their own health and safety and that of others (duty of care) in the workplace.
- must pay particular attention to children under 4 years of age to reduce the risk of heat illness.
- follow the 'Sun Protection Policy'.

**At Carol Murray Children's Centre** Cooling systems will operate within our building to ensure a comfortable environment for children, staff and families during normal operating times.

## **In extenuating circumstances (such as no air-conditioning):**

- Appropriate contingency plans will be activated (emergency, bushfire)
- Blackouts caused by extreme heat conditions (above 36 degrees Celsius) /or events (eg bushfires) early dismissal will occur. Staff will remain on duty and children who are unable to be collected will be kept as comfortable as possible. Consideration of bus timetable given to children who access the School Bus. Childcare families will be notified individually of the extenuating circumstance so they can collect their child/children if able.

Refer: Sun Smart Early Childhood program- [www.sunsmart.com.au](http://www.sunsmart.com.au)  
Cancer Council SA <http://www.cancer.org.au>  
OHS&W: HR - DECD Heat Stress Procedure  
<http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/docs/documents/1/HeatStressProcedure.pdf>  
DECD Guidelines to Developing a Hot Weather Policy

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