

SUN SAFETY POLICY

Purpose

This policy has been developed to minimise harmful effects from over-exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays.

'Skin cancer is one of the most common cancers in the UK and the number of cases is rising at an alarming rate. Most skin cancers are caused by ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun. If we protect ourselves from the sun then we can reduce our risk. This is particularly important for children and young people whose skin is more delicate and easily damaged'.

'Studies have found that sunburn during childhood can increase the risk of skin cancer later in life. You may not see the damage immediately because skin cancer can take years to develop, but children who are over-exposed to the sun now are storing up problems for the future.'¹

Policy

It is the policy of Westend Playgroup to work with staff and parents to ensure that all reasonable sun protection measures have been applied to the children in our care.

All staff, parents, volunteers and visitors will be made aware of our sun safety policy

All staff are obliged to abide by and help with the implementation of the policy. Staff must understand the importance of sun protection and the associated risks of inadequate protection. They will be encouraged to act as positive role models by following sun safety procedures themselves i.e. wearing appropriate clothing, hats, sun glasses and sunscreen

Procedures

Westend Playgroup will take a proactive approach to sun protection incorporating the following elements:

PROTECTION: providing an environment and resources that enables children and staff to stay safe in the sun

EDUCATION: learning about sun safety and sharing that knowledge through interaction with children to increase awareness/knowledge and to influence behaviour

COLLABORATION: working with parents and staff to reinforce awareness about sun safety

¹ www.sunsmart.org.uk

- Outdoor activities will be held in the shade wherever possible –especially during ‘at risk’ months of April – September and other months when the weather is unusually sunny
- In exceptionally hot, sunny weather a risk assessment will be carried out to determine the need to restrict children’s access to the outdoors
- Drinking water will be made readily available for children and staff at all times
- Parents must apply sunscreen to their child before they arrive and ensure that children wear suitable clothing that provides good sun protection in sunny weather – e.g.-shirts/dresses that cover shoulders/light long sleeved clothing, wide brimmed sun hats that provide neck cover, UV protective sunglasses
- In the event additional sunscreen needs to be applied during the session, parents must have given written consent for this.
- Any child harmed by exposure to the sun’s rays will be given appropriate, immediate and ongoing treatment wherever practicable and an incident report form will be completed
- Information and reminders about the sun safety policy will be communicated at staff and parents/carers meetings, in newsletters and verbally on a daily basis
- Children will be informed and reminded about sun safety interactively by staff through discussion, activities, themes and stories

Non – compliance

- In the event of parents objecting to sunscreen being applied, they will be informed that their child may be restricted from playing outside in sunny weather especially during the ‘at risk months’ of April-September
- A record will be maintained of all such incidents and outcomes