HOT WEATHER POLICY

AIM
To ensure that in cases of extreme hot weather, children are safe from the risk of heat stroke or other dangers linked to extreme conditions/sun overexposure.

IMPLEMENTATION

Leadership will:
- Review policy as needed
- Contact SA Power Network on 131 366 in the case of a power failure/blackout. If the temperature in the designated sleep rooms reaches over 25 degrees and the blackout is expected to last over an hour, Leadership may decide to send children home.
- Close the Centre at their discretion if a power failure is expected to be ongoing for longer than a day.

Team Leaders will:
- Ensure this policy is understood by educators and implemented in their room.

Educators will:
- Ensure outside play areas will be shaded as much as possible and encourage children to play in covered areas.
- Ensure children wear hats outside when the UV rating is higher than 3.
- Offer and encourage indoor play on days with extreme hot weather.
- Activate appropriate cooling systems for comfort and relief in times of extreme weather. All air conditioning and heating systems are adjustable to suit the weather and temperature.
- Ensure water is provided for children at all times. Each room will be responsible for ensuring children have access to cool drinking water and are served it in an age appropriate way i.e. providing liquids frequently to babies, allowing older children to pour their own drinks from an urn etc.
- Remind children to drink liquids more frequently on days with excessive temperatures.
- During hot weather, offer experiences such as water play and will supervise these at all times (see Water Safety Policy).
- Contact parents/caregivers and follow first aid/emergency procedures if a child shows signs of dehydration or heat stroke.
- Monitor the temperature in their rooms during a blackout/power failure and alert Leadership if it exceeds 25 degrees.

The Centre Chef will:
- Store perishable foods and meals in fridges or freezers until they are prepared or served. This is to reduce the risk of spoilage and food poisoning. (See Healthy Food and Nutrition Policy).
- Dispose of potentially hazardous food or food that has sat between 5° and 60° for longer than four hours. During a blackout or if the fridge/freezer is malfunctioning, this food should be monitored every fifteen minutes.

Families will:
- Ensure they send children to care in weather appropriate clothing. In hot weather, this may include thin layers that can be removed throughout the day or during sleep time. Spare clothing is provided by the Centre should children need it. Children who sweat excessively may be given spare clothes to prevent discomfort and lower the chances of hypothermia.
Forbes Children’s Centre

- Ensure children are dressed in appropriate clothing for sun exposure, including clothes that cover their shoulders, hats and sunscreen. (See Skin Protection Policy).
- Be required to collect children if they are displaying signs of dehydration or heat stroke.
- Be required to collect children if a blackout onsite is expected to last longer than an hour.

**EVALUATION:**
This policy is seen to be working effectively when:
- Steps are taken to decrease children’s risk of heat stroke/dehydration.
- The Centre has procedures in place to provide comfort and relief for children and families in time of excessive heat or power outages.

**National Quality Standards:**
2. Children’s Health and Safety
2.1.2. Each child’s comfort is provided for and there are appropriate opportunities to meet each child’s need for sleep, rest and relaxation.
2.3.2. Reasonable steps are taken to identify and manage risk, and every reasonable precaution taken to protect children from harm and hazards.

**Implemented:** N/A
**Reviewed:** October 2014
**Next Review:** October 2015
**Source:**