Modbury North Kindergarten

INCLEMENT AND HOT WEATHER POLICY

National Quality Standard Area 2 | Children's health and safety

Purpose - This policy recognises that children are at greater risk of suffering from hypothermia and hyperthermia than adults and that a child's ability to respond to environmental extremes is due to physiological differences. This policy includes the Hot Weather Procedures.

Inclement weather

Inclement weather is the existence of abnormal climatic conditions including but not limited to the following or any combination thereof:

- Extreme high temperatures (36 degrees and above)
- Exposure to UV
- Rain
- Hail
- High winds
- Severe dust or electrical storm
- High humidity

Context

Outdoor Area

The Modbury North Kindergarten has a large outdoor area with many big, mature trees, providing shade over most parts of the yard, as well as a large shade structure over our sandpit.

Veranda

A large veranda is attached to the building. Shade cloth blinds can be pulled down when required.

Air conditioning and heating

- An evaporative air conditioning unit has ducts to the main playrooms. The office, toilets and kitchen do not have direct air-conditioning ducts.
- Two refrigerated reverse cycle units are located at either end of the building and in the office.
- Two gas wall furnaces are located at each end of the building.
- Wall bar heaters are in the indoor parent waiting area/staff lunch area and office.

Strategies for minimising risks for children attending Modbury North Kindergarten on extreme weather days

Ensure that the Tea Tree Gully Council conducts tree audits and trim large trees in the kindergarten yard as required (each September).

On days of extreme weather, educators will use their professional judgement and information (eg. weather warnings from the Bureau of Meteorology, weather reports and observations) to assess risks, including the possibility of falling branches and trees on windy days, and implement appropriate strategies that may include the following:

Outdoor play may be:

- restricted to a shorter period
- offered in the morning/afternoon only
- cancelled altogether
- only under the veranda
- only in the backyard

Parents may be:

asked to use their judgement and consider the level of risk posed to their child during transportation to and from kindergarten.

Strategies for minimising heat related stress for children attending Modbury North Kindergarten on hot weather days (36 degrees and above)

Children and adults

Monitor all children and adults at the centre and follow emergency procedures if anyone shows signs of dehydration, heat stroke or hyperthermia, including contacting parents/caregivers.

Activities

Activities conducted in periods of hot weather will be undertaken in shaded areas and will be reduced to the "less active" type. Water play activities will be offered to the children when practical.

Drinks

Staff will frequently remind children to drink water. There is always access to drinking water.
We encourage children to bring their own drink bottles filled with water only. These can be refilled at our water puratap. Children put their drink bottles on the drink bottle trolley so that they can be wheeled into the room/area they all are in for all time access.
Cups are provided for children to use if they forgot their water bottle.

Food

Parents are encouraged to put their child's snacks and drink bottle inside the building when it is hot. There is a table next to the fridge for the containers and drink bottles are wheeled inside on the drink bottle trolley.

Clothing

Parents are encouraged to dress children in sun safe clothing that minimises heat gain, in layers that can be easily removed either by the child or staff.

Surfaces

Prior to children engaging in outdoor play on hot days, staff will check the surface temperature of items such as swings, climbing equipment and slide to prevent burn injuries. This is to be checked by placing their hand on the surface for a slow count of five.

Power blackout/failure

During a power blackout or failure, SA Power Network are to be contacted on 131 366. If the Kindergarten becomes too hot, parents are to be notified, and children collected. Monitor food stored in the fridge and dispose of food that is greater than 5 degrees Celsius. Consider closing the kindergarten until the power is restored.

Strategies for minimising risks on cold days

Experiences

Active experiences will be provided to allow children to move their bodies.

Clothing

Parents are encouraged to dress children in warm clothing, including jackets and beanies.

Incident Management Reporting

Incidents are managed as follows:

- Contact parents and caregivers when required
- Complete an IRMS report and follow procedures
- Contact other emergency personnel as required
- Preserve incident sites

Policy approved by: Timsy Joyti | Preschool Director, Modbury North Kindy
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