

WCS Children's Services WH&S - Children's Clothing Policy

Purpose

The clothing children wear while at the Service influences the quality of their experiences and their learning because clothes can affect their health, safety, comfort, level of independence and ability to play. These issues apply to the clothes children wear to the Service, the spare clothes they bring, spares provided by the Service, and to dress-up clothes.

Policy Statement

The policy provides families with information about suitable clothing for their child to wear while at the service. It is consistent with recommendations from recognised authorities such as Cancer Council, Red Nose and Kidsafe. The policy also takes into account the range of activities children are involved in at the service, the weather, and the need to encourage children's independence and self-help skills.

Family preferences and values, cultural or otherwise, with regard to clothing are respected and accommodated without compromising children's safety while at the Service.

Children that participate in before and after school care are excluded from sections of this policy due to age and school attire.

Strategies and Practices

- The *Clothing Policy* is available to parents/guardians when they enroll their child in the Service.
- The Service informs families about suitable clothing for their children while at the Service for safe indoor and outdoor play, sun safety, safe sleep and rest. This information may also be provided through newsletters, notice boards, information nights, and educator-parent meetings, with special emphasis during change of seasons and unusual weather.
- Educators include in the program planned and spontaneous discussions and experiences about appropriate clothing for weather, seasons, and different types of activities.
- Educators ensure children are dressed appropriately throughout the day. This includes some adjustments that may need to be made during the day through changes in weather and in the activities children are involved in (e.g. active play, messy play, sleep and rest).
- Educators, students and volunteers are considered to be role models for children and are expected to meet the Service's dress requirements.
- Parents/guardians are asked to label every item of their child's clothing (including spares) brought to the Service.

Responsibilities of parents/guardians

Sun protection

- Hats and clothing that offers protection from the sun (e.g. covers the shoulders) is to be worn outside. Refer to the service's *Sun Protection Policy*.

Active play

- Children need to wear clothes that are non-restrictive, durable and can be easily laundered so that they can participate freely in all of the activities available at the service. Unsuitable items include: long skirts; hooded jumpers with cords; hats with cords and toggles; and, rubber thongs and other loose footwear, because they pose safety risks when children are climbing, running and riding bikes.

Weather conditions

- Parents/guardians are asked to dress their children according to weather conditions and temperatures and to provide a supply of clothing in their child's bag for possible changes in the weather through the day.

Art and craft / messy activities

- Parents/guardians are asked to dress their child in clothing that allows participation in messy activities, and can be easily laundered. Good or 'special' clothes are not suitable because children can become distressed if these become marked.
- Children participating in art and craft, clay or water play, cooking or any other form of messy play will be encouraged to wear one of the Services protective smocks or aprons.

Independence and self-help skills

- Educators encourage children's self-help skills (e.g. taking off and putting on shoes and socks, removing clothing, pulling up clothing after toileting). Routines and 'dressing times' are unhurried and considered to be opportunities for interaction and conversation with children and developing self-help skills.
- In order to facilitate children's self-help and independence, parents/guardians are asked to dress children in:
 - clothes they can undo easily and remove quickly for toileting. Clothes with elastic waists are preferred to overalls and to trousers with zips and buttons.
 - shoes that are easiest to put on, such as those with velcro clips.

Protective behaviours and practices

- Children under the age of three years old are offered assistance when dressing or undressing.
- Children over the age of three are encouraged to dress/undress themselves. Assistance is provided when necessary.
- Children who are capable of dressing/undressing are given the option of privacy.

Excursions

- The Service provides parents/guardians with information about suitable clothing for any planned excursion where applicable, and parents/guardians are asked to dress their child accordingly and also to pack spare clothing suitable for the excursion.

Footwear

- Children are to wear non-slip enclosed footwear (except in OSHC) that are flexible and provide a good grip. Thongs or clogs are not suitable for running and climbing.
- Children may remove their shoes for outside play, weather permitting, unless required for safety reasons.

Sleep and rest

- Educators ensure children are dressed suitably for the room temperature. Some items of clothing may need to be removed for safety reasons (e.g. tops with hoods and cords that may cause choking). Educators are respectful and sensitive to cultural differences in attitudes to dressing, and encourage children to be independent in dressing at these times.
- Comforters from home will be given to children who need them to settle. However, toys with ribbons, removable parts or parts that can be looped over a child's head cannot be used because of the Service adherence to the Red Nose guidelines. Refer to the service's *Sleep and Rest Policy*.

Spare clothing

- Parents/guardians are asked to provide spare clothing for their child. Older children require at least one change of clothes, where applicable. Younger children require several changes of clothes because accidents are more frequent. Children who are toilet training also need a sufficient number of under pants or training pants.
- The Service has a limited supply of spare clothing to be used when needed. If a child needs to use these clothes, parents/guardians are asked to launder and return them as soon as possible.

Soiled clothing

- Soiled clothing is placed in a plastic bag, labelled with child's name and taken home by parents/guardians. Clothing soiled with bodily fluids is double bagged, labelled with child's name, contents and date, and taken home by parents/guardians. Extremely soiled underwear will be disposed of.

Nappies

- Parents/guardians may be asked to supply sufficient disposable or cloth nappies for their child to use while at the service.

Accessories

- Parents/guardians will be asked to remove accessories (jewellery, scarves, belts etc.) that may pose a safety risk to the child.

Links Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011, National Quality Standard 2018

QA	1.1.3	All aspects of the program, including routines, is organised in ways that maximise opportunities for each child's learning.
	2.1.1	Each child's wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child's need for sleep, rest and relaxation.

	2.1.2	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene processes are promoted and implemented.
	3.1.1	Outdoor and indoor spaces, buildings, fixtures and fittings are suitable for their purpose, including supporting the access of every child.
	5.1.2	The dignity and rights of every child are maintained.

Sources and further reading

Sources

- Stonehouse, A. (2009). *NCAC Factsheet: Children's clothing in child care*. <http://ncac.acecqa.gov.au/family-resources/factsheets/dressing.pdf> accessed 29 December 2011.
- Sunsmart. (2012). *Slip on protective clothing: Tips for choosing and using clothing well*. http://www.sunsmart.com.au/sun_protection/slip accessed 10 March 2012.
- Dr. B. Abbey and P. Maclean, NQS - the complete system of policies, procedures and forms, www.childcarebydesign.com.au.

Useful websites

- Red Nose - <https://rednose.com.au/>
- SunSmart - www.sunsmart.com.au

Policy Review

This policy is a living document and will be monitored and reviewed as issues are identified. Proposed changes will be circulated and discussed by all programs and any external stakeholders for approval.

Person Responsible for Review:

Manager, Children's Services

Implementation Date:	3 November 2014	Review Date:	July 2021
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Modification History

Date	Sections and/or Paragraphs	Source	Details
2016/08	Whole document		Formatting
2018/02	Quality Areas	Revised National Quality Standard 2018	
2018/07	Whole policy - review	Organisation previously called SIDS and Kids is now called "Red Nose"	Addition of specific details for Sun Protection and Sleep and Rest section; Addition of Accessories; Removal of links to other policies
2019/04	Whole policy review		Minor changes

Approved by Susan Henderson, Manager, Children's Services.



Date: 3 November 2014