



PENNANT HILLS WAR MEMORIAL CHILDREN'S CENTRE

3-7 Shields Lane, Pennant Hills NSW 2120. Telephone: 9484 1133
Email: phwmcc@iinet.com.au
ABN 85 129 536 459

PENNANT HILLS WAR MEMORIAL CHILDREN'S CENTRE (PHWMCC) CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR POLICY

Introduction

Children need protective, comfortable and appropriate clothing and footwear to explore their environments. Clothing needs to protect children from injury and sun exposure while promoting self-help abilities. Appropriate footwear will fit a child's foot correctly and ensure comfort. Educators will also dress to prevent injury and sun exposure and be required to dress in a professional and respectful manner.

Aim

PHWMCC will encourage children and staff to wear appropriate clothing and footwear to ensure comfort and protection in all weather conditions during indoor and outdoor play.

Procedure

PHWMCC will:

- Develop and maintain a sun protection policy.
- Follow the guidelines set by the Cancer Council Australia to reduce UV exposure throughout the year.
- Ensure both educators and children wear appropriate clothing for the weather conditions, work environment and social/cultural circumstances.
- Aim to ensure the comfort, protection, dignity and rights of children at all times of the day by recommending appropriate clothing and footwear guidelines.
- Provide information to families about suitable clothing for play experiences, sun protection and safety.
- Respect cultural differences and individual family and educator needs when recommending suitable clothing.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Approved Provider will:

- Ensure that a sun protection policy is developed and maintained.
- Ensure that educators are provided with personal protective equipment (e.g. gloves etc.) to facilitate cleaning and health protection measures.

The Nominated Supervisor will:

- Provide information for educators about suitable clothing and footwear expectations for the education and care work environment. Staff will be allowed to take their shoes off when appropriate, and wear any type of footwear other than thongs.
- Ensure educators are aware of the *PHWMCC Sun Protection Policy*.
- Provide information for families about suitable clothing and footwear. Families will be encouraged to dress children in clothes that are suitable for messy play, and active play. This information will also be available at the preschool using a variety of communication strategies including *PHWMCC Parent Handbook*, emails, newsletters, brochures, websites and posters.

Educators will:

- Consult with families about the individual needs of children with respect to different values and beliefs associated with clothing and footwear.
- Monitor children's clothing and footwear to ensure compliance with the *PHWMCC Sun Protection Policy* and to support the safety, comfort and well-being of every child.
- Consider clothing and footwear needs associated with excursions or planned learning experiences and communicate clearly with families about the need for extraordinary protective clothing requirements eg raincoats
- Provide protective clothing, such as aprons, for messy play experiences. Children will be encouraged by educators to wear protective clothing during messy and water play.
- Encourage children to remove shoes and heavy/ excess layers of clothing during rest times and to reflect the room temperature.
- Encourage children to utilise their self-help skills as appropriate to put on and remove clothing and shoes to meet their needs. For younger children, educators will use observation and monitoring skills to ensure children's clothing and footwear is appropriate for the environment and weather conditions.
- Allow children to play in bare feet.

Families will:

- Provide spare clothing in children's bags to allow for dirty or soiled clothing and changing weather conditions. Spare clothing will be available at the preschool for emergency needs.
- Dress children appropriately.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

This policy will be monitored to ensure compliance with legislative requirements and unless deemed necessary through the identification of practice gaps, the preschool will review this policy every three years.

Families and staff are essential stakeholders in the policy review process and will be given opportunity and encouragement to be actively involved.

In accordance with R. 172 of the *Education and Care Services National Regulations*, the preschool will ensure that families of children at the preschool are notified at least 14 days before making any change to a policy or procedure that may have significant impact on the provision of education and care to any child enrolled at the preschool; a family's ability to utilise the preschool; the fees charged or the way in which fees are collected.

Definitions

Regulatory Authority:	Early Childhood Education and Care Directorate
Approved Provider:	Pennant Hills War Memorial Children's Centre Management Committee
Nominated Supervisor:	Director of Pennant Hills War Memorial Children's Centre
Responsible Person:	Nominated Supervisor or an Educator who has been placed in day-to-day charge of the Preschool
Early Childhood Educators:	Teachers and Child Care Workers

Related Legislation Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: 106, 168, 172

Related Guidelines, Standards, Frameworks National Quality Standards, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety – Standard 2.1, 2.1.1, 2.2, Quality Area 4: Staffing Arrangements -Standard 4.2, 4.2.2,

Quality Area 5: Relationships with Children – Standard 5.1.2

Sources	Community Early Learning Australia – Clothing and Footwear Sample Policy
Relevant Documents	PHWMCC Sun Protection Policy PHWMCC Parent Handbook
Policy Reviewed:	August 2023
Next Review Date:	August 2026