



Policy No: CE-POL-015/1.2/2013

# Hot Weather Policy

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Committee

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**Version No:** 1.2

**Approved By:**  
Scott Dolman  
Chairperson

**On behalf of the Management  
Committee.**

**Approval Date:** 26/7/17

**Next Review Date:** 26/7/20

**Supersedes:**  
Hot Weather Policy Version 1.1

## 1 Purpose:

This policy outlines how the centre will reduce the risk of heat illness to young children during hot weather.

## 2 Scope:

Approved provider (at this service we have 2 Approved Providers-DECD and the Management Committee)  
Nominated Supervisor  
Certified Supervisors  
Educators  
Children & Families  
Students & Volunteers

## 3 Supporting Documents:

[Skin Protection Policy](#)  
[Clothing Policy](#)  
DECD –Inclement Weather Procedure

## 4 Policy Details:

Children are at a greater risk of suffering from heat illness than adults. A child's ability to respond to environmental heat and acclimatise to heat is due to physiological differences.

“Children sweat less and get less evaporative cooling than adults. In warm and hot weather they have greater difficulty getting rid of heat; they look flushed and feel hotter and more stressed than adults”

*Sports Medicine Australia*

The risk of heat stress is a factor of both air temperature and relative humidity levels.

Strategies to minimise the risk of heat illness in young children are detailed under procedures.

## 5 Procedures:

### **Appropriate clothing**

Please refer to the [Clothing Policy](#) to find a list of suitable clothing for the warmer months.

### **Drink fluids frequently:**

Children are encouraged to drink a cup of water at each meal time.

Water coolers are provided inside and outside for children to access throughout the day. Staff will top up the coolers as necessary and encourage children to drink more water on hot weather days.

Children in the Yitpi Tarnanthi room have their own drink cup/bottle for the day and staff in the room monitor these to ensure children remain well hydrated throughout the day.

### **Utilise shaded areas:**

Staff will endeavour to use the shade of the trees, verandahs and shade structures when setting up equipment.

Children will be encouraged to use the shade of trees, verandahs and shade structures when outdoors.

Children under the age of 12 months will be kept out of direct sunlight where possible.

The maintenance and further provision of shade is a priority for C.a.F.E. Enfield Children's Centre.

See the [skin protection policy](#) for more details.

### **Checking of outside play surfaces:**

During hot weather pieces of equipment in direct sunlight have the potential to heat to a high temperature. This can place children at risk of contact burn injuries.

If an adult cannot comfortably hold their hand on a surface for a slow count of 5, it is not safe for a child to play on.

During warm weather an adult should test the surface throughout the day as the temperature will vary.

### **Provision of a comfortable environment indoors:**

During hot weather the centre will utilise air conditioners throughout to keep the centre as comfortable as possible for all users.

In the event of a blackout or total air conditioner breakdown the centre will endeavour to fix the problem as soon as possible. In the Yitpi Tarnanthi room, If the expected time for systems to return to normal is greater than 1hr and if the room temperature reaches 30° or greater, the Parents/Caregivers will be contacted and given the option to collect their child.

All other rooms will be monitored and Parents/Caregivers will be contacted if deemed necessary.

## 6 Legislation and Regulations

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

Reg 168

Reg 114 Outdoor Space-shade

Reg 110 (c) premises are maintained at a temperature that ensures the safety and wellbeing of children

## 7 Definitions of Terms:

Term	Meaning
DECD	Department of Education and Child Development
UV	Ultra Violet

## 8 References:

Sports Medicine Australia "beat the heat" fact sheet 2008

Child & Youth Health website accessed online on 18/7/17 at url:

<http://www.cyh.com/HealthTopics/HealthTopicDetails.aspx?p=114&np=305&id=1605>

DECD Inclement Weather Policy- accessed via DECD Intranet 18/7/17

## 9 Reviewing Strategy and History:

Review should be conducted every 3 years to ensure compliance with this procedure

Version No.	Reviewed By	Approved By	Approval Date	Review Notes
1	Management Committee	Liam Fudali	1/5/13	New policy
1.1	Management Committee Educators	Josie Salisbury	21/10/15	Updated referencing
1.2	Management Committee Educators	Scott Dolman	26/7/17	Minor changes Added Section 6 Regulations Updated referencing Updated review history