

Sun Protection (SunSmart) Policy

RATIONALE

At Karori Childcare Centre, we are committed to protecting the health and well-being of tamariki and kaiako. During warmer months, the New Zealand sun can be particularly harmful. We ensure sun protection is a daily part of our centre routine to reduce the risk of sunburn and long-term skin damage.

PROCEDURES

Hats

- From **October to April**, tamariki are required to wear a **sunhat that covers the face, neck, and ears** when outdoors.
- Whānau are asked to provide a named sunhat for their tamaiti. Reminders will be given at the start of the season. If they do not have their own, they may use a communal hat.
- If a tamaiti frequently removes their hat, sunscreen will be applied to exposed areas such as the scalp.
- Kaiako regularly check the UV index to ensure that tamariki are protected accordingly.

Clothing

- Tamariki are encouraged to wear **UV-protective clothing** that covers their shoulders. **Singlets are not permitted** during peak UV periods.
- Staff also model sun-smart dress by wearing wide-brimmed hats and sun-protective clothing when outdoors.

Sunscreen

- The centre provides **SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen**, suitable for sensitive skin.
Sunscreen is applied:
 - Before outdoor play in the morning
 - Reapplied in the afternoon as required
- Every sunscreen application for tamariki is **recorded daily**.
- Whānau are encouraged to **apply sunscreen before arriving** each morning.
- If a tamaiti requires a specific sunscreen due to **skin allergies**, whānau must provide a **clearly labelled** alternative.
- Staff role-model sunscreen use alongside tamariki.

Shade and Outdoor Practices

- Outdoor areas where tamariki frequently play (e.g. sandpit, grassed area) are **sheltered with permanent or movable shade** structures.
- Excursions and outdoor activities will be **scheduled during lower UV times** and in shaded areas where possible.
- Tamariki are encouraged to seek shade and to learn about sun safety through routines, conversation, and role modelling.
- Water is available at all times to keep tamariki hydrated, especially during warmer months.

Whānau Communication

- The centre's Sun Protection Policy is:
 - **Discussed at enrolment**
 - **Shared in newsletters** and on **noticeboards** at the start of daylight saving
- Whānau are encouraged to speak to kaiako if they have concerns or preferences around sunscreen use or sun protection practices for their tamaiti.