



Clothing and Identification Policy (Bush Kinder Specific)

Policy

This policy aims to clearly define:

- Ways in which bush kinder participants are clearly visible and identifiable to staff and volunteers, to protect the safety of all participants
- The manner in which the Bush Kinder site is marked to enable identification and to communicate some key messages to optimise the Bush Kinder program and experience

Bush Kindergarten is committed to:

- Providing a safe and healthy environment for children, staff and volunteers participating in the Bush Kinder program
- Being respectful of the community space that the bush kinder site offers, while ensuring the safety of participants at all times in response to external influences and risks
- Being respectful that members of the public may be interested in the Bush Kinder program, but ensuring that the program is not interrupted or disturbed by onlookers.

Guidelines

Bush Kindergarten is conducted in the disused Mandurang South Primary School site (closed in 1996). It is important that children, staff and volunteers participating in the Bush Kinder program are easily identified by each other. It is also critical that children participating in the program are clearly visible to all staff and volunteers.

Clothing for bush kinder should allow children to be comfortable and protected in a range of conditions, regardless of the weather conditions. We encourage the children to be fully involved in the program and to do this they need to feel comfortable and safe to do so. Climbing and running are part of the program, laying in leaf litter and digging in mud and soils will also be a part of bush kinder. So the children need to wear clothes and shoes that support this type of play. Cotton clothing, when wet doesn't dry well or maintain warmth. Clothing that is quick drying and resistant to damage is ideal. Clothing should also keep children warm and dry in wet weather and protect them from bites and stings, and UV rays.

Strategies

General

Staff is responsible for:

- Ensuring staff are appropriately trained in procedures for dealing with onlookers, dogs etc.
- Ensuring all participants are wearing identifiable provided clothing depending on weather this may include sun smart shirts or jackets,

Parents/guardians are responsible for:

- Ensuring children come to Bush Kinder appropriately dressed for the ambient weather, as below
- Ensuring children wear appropriate footwear, as below
- Reading and being familiar with the policy
- Bringing relevant issues to the attention of both staff and committee

Parent must provide the following:-

Summer (Terms 1 & 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Broad brimmed sun hat▪ Closed in shoes with flexible soles such as sneakers, leather boots. (Sandals unacceptable)▪ Long pants to protect legs. Long shirts. (Skirts, dresses, shorts and singlets are unacceptable)▪ Filled water bottle.▪ Warm jumper (wool or polar fleece are ideal)▪ Change of underwear▪ Spare socks
Winter (Terms 2 & 3) (In addition to above)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Thermal underwear in very cold conditions▪ Gloves▪ Woollen or polar fleece beanie (avoid cotton)
Change of clothes: All children participating in Bush Kinder are required to bring a change of clothes and footwear as these may become wet and muddy. It is recommended that the spare clothing include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spare top and bottoms of appropriate thickness/weight for the weather on the day• Spare underpants (and singlet in winter)• 2 pairs of socks• 1 pair of gumboots for times of mud play

Identifiable clothing: Participants in the Bush Kinder program will be clearly identifiable by common UV safe, long sleeved red polo tops and/ or red waterproof jackets, depending on weather conditions. Staff will also wear clothing that makes them easily identified as leaders of the group. The intention is to have participants, children, staff and volunteers alike, clearly part of the same Bush Kinder group. These clothes will be supplied to participants at the commencement of each session and must be returned at the end of each session.

Evaluation

In order to assess whether the policy has achieved the values and purposes the Bush Kinder staff will:

- Seek feedback regarding this policy and its implementation with parents/guardians of children participating in the Bush Kinder program. This can be facilitated through discussions and the annual centre survey.
- Share their experiences and recorded observations in relation to the effectiveness of this policy.
- Regularly review the policy and centre practices to ensure they are compliant with any new legislation, research or best practice procedures.

Scope

- This policy applies to children, parents/guardians, staff, committee members, authorised persons, volunteers and students on placement working at Spring Gully Kindergarten.

Authorisation

This policy was approved by Shine Bright EYM on

Review date: February 2017

Related Documents

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010,
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2012
National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care and School Aged Care
Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2007
Occupational Health and Safety Compliance Codes, First Aid in the Workplace (2008)