

Early Years Services – QA2.23 Bush Kinder Protective Clothing

TRIM Reference:	D15/74606	Due for Review:	3 April 2025
Responsible Officer:	Coordinator Early Years		

Purpose

This policy outlines Surf Coast Shire Council's commitment to:

- set out clear guidelines for parents/guardians and staff regarding appropriate clothing to be worn by children attending Bush Kinder in various weather conditions to ensure their safety and wellbeing (including a description of clothing which should not be worn);
- provide clear guidelines regarding the change of clothes requirements for Bush Kinder participants;
- provide an appropriate mechanism for communication of the protective clothing requirements for Bush Kinder sessions to parents/guardians.

Policy Principles

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 (National Law)

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 (The Regulations) and the National Quality Standard (Schedule 1 of the Regulations)

Scope

This policy applies to all Surf Coast Shire Council Early Years Services staff, volunteers, students on placement, families and children utilising the services.

Policy

The Surf Coast Shire Council Bush Kinder program is intended to operate across a broad spectrum of weather conditions, allowing children to experience nature and its elements across the seasons. Children are encouraged to take the lead in playing, exploring and learning in a bush or natural environment.

For this reason, there is some particular clothing requirements in the Bush Kinder setting that may differ from requirements in a centre-based environment.

Protective and appropriate clothing & footwear:

It is important that Bush Kinder participants wear appropriate and protective clothing and footwear which:

- allows children to move freely and undertake activities such as climbing, balancing, running;
- keeps children warm and dry in cold/wet weather;
- protects children from the damaging effects of the sun, UV rays in warm weather and high UV conditions;
- prevents sunburn, bites, scratches and stings. (Even in warm weather, long sleeve tops and long pants are recommended - this clothing should be loose fitting and light);
- Where possible is made from natural fabrics which allow the body to breathe and is comfortable against the skin;
- In the case of footwear, keeps feet and toes covered and has a flexible sole to allow children to climb and balance on uneven surfaces;

The following table provides examples of recommended clothing, clothing which is not recommended and unacceptable clothing:

	Warm Weather	Cold Weather / Rain
Recommended clothing and footwear	Light loose fitting long sleeve tops and long pants, broad brimmed hat, closed toe shoes	Puddle suits, waterproof jacket, waterproof pants, long pants, long sleeved top, beanie, waterproof gloves, thermals in very cold weather
Not recommended	Short sleeved tops, long skirts or dresses, shorts	Skirts, dresses
Unacceptable clothing and footwear	Open toe shoes, sandals, thongs, crocs, singlet tops	Non-waterproof clothing

For hygiene reasons, Bush Kinder identifiable broad brimmed hats and beanies will **NOT** be provided by the kindergarten. Parents will be asked to provide these items for their children so that headwear is not being shared between children.

Definitions

Not Applicable

Related Procedure

Nil.

References

Related Surf Coast Shire Council and Early Years Policies

WHS 22.0 Working in Seasonal Heat
 WHS 21.0 Protection of Outdoor Workers from Ultraviolet Radiation
 WHS 4.0 Personal Protective Equipment and Clothing
 MPP-018 Workplace Health & Safety Policy
 D14/70705 Early Years Excursions Policy
 D15/35312 Early Years Child Safe Environment Policy
 D15/16286 Early Years Access and Inclusion Policy
 D15/74476 Bush Kinder Extreme Weather Policy
 D15/35300 Sun Protection Policy

Related Surf Coast Shire Council and Early Years Services Work Instructions and Forms

WHS 18.10 Bush Kinder Checklist

Document History

Version	Document History	Approved by – Date
1	Approved	Manager Aged & Family - 1 October 2015
2	Amended	Manager Aged & Family - 3 January 2018
3	Amended	Manager Community Strengthening - 9 August 2019
4	Amended	Manager Community Strengthening – 24 December 2020
5	Amended	Manager Community Strengthening – 30 June 2022
6	Amended	Manager Community Strengthening – 3 October 2023