

CLOTHING AND COMFORT

QUALITY AREA 2 – CHILDREN’S HEALTH AND SAFETY



PURPOSE

This policy provides clear expectations for children’s clothing, sleepwear and footwear whilst attending Sparkways.



POLICY STATEMENT

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Sparkways is committed to ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of children and complying with the Education and Care Services National Regulations at all times.

Sparkways will consult with families about their child’s individual needs and to be aware of the different values and parenting beliefs, cultural or otherwise, that may be associated with clothing and footwear. These will be accommodated where possible and where health, safety and wellbeing can be maintained.

For the purpose of this policy, the term clothing and footwear encompasses:

- Safe sleepwear
- Sun protective clothing, including hats
- Clothing for messy play, including art and craft aprons
- Appropriate clothing for changing weather conditions and temperature of environments
- Cloth to facilitate self-help, including role play props and clothing
- Safe footwear

Sparkways is committed to contemporary, evidence-based practice and recognises that going barefoot – when safe to do so – can support the development of children’s motor skills. Sparkways therefore supports barefoot play in appropriate circumstances.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the approved provider, persons with management or control, nominated supervisor, persons in day-to-day charge, early childhood teachers, educators, staff, students, volunteers, parents/guardians, children, and others attending the programs and activities of Sparkways, including during offsite excursions and activities.



PROCEDURES

- All articles of clothing, including shoes, must be clearly labelled with waterproof markers or labels
- Children are involved in a large range of activities during the day, which may include messy play
- Coats, hats and gumboots are required for wet weather – additional to inside clothes and footwear
- Loose fitting shoes can increase risk of injury, particularly in playground environments. Shoes should be well fitting and cover the entire foot – i.e. no open back or toes
- Barefoot play may occur at times, with appropriate safety measures in place – e.g. sunscreen applied to feet; ensuring walking surfaces are a comfortable temperature and are free of hazards
- Clothing is to be assessed for temperature and comfort for children who are sleeping or resting – particularly babies and younger children
- All children should bring a complete change of clothes
- Additional clothes should be provided for children who are toilet training



LEGISLATION AND STANDARDS

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety

The most current amendments to listed legislation can be found at:

Victorian Legislation – Victorian Law Today: www.legislation.vic.gov.au

Commonwealth Legislation – Federal Register of Legislation: www.legislation.gov.au



DEFINITIONS

For regularly used terms refer to the Definitions file of the Sparkways policy catalogue.



SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES

SOURCES

SIDS and Kids – Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI) Frequently Asked Questions, <https://rednose.com.au/question/archive>

SunSmart Victoria – Information Sheets: <https://www.sunsmart.com.au/advice-for/schools-early-childhood/education-resources/early-childhood-resources/early-childhood-family-notice-information-sheets>

UNICEF: A summary of the rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child: <https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention>

Children going barefoot in an early childhood setting: <https://aussiechildcarenetwork.com.au/articles/childcare-articles/children-going-barefoot-in-an-early-childhood-setting#:~:text=Reports%20show%20that%20children%20who,a%20child%20grows%20and%20matures.>

RELATED POLICES

- Child Safe Environment and Wellbeing
- Curriculum Development
- Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness
- Inclusion and Equity
- Nutrition, Oral Health, and Active Play
- Sun Protection



EVALUATION

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the approved provider will:

- seek feedback from people affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
- monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy
- keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
- revise the policy and procedures as part of the service's policy review cycle, or as required
- notifying all stakeholders affected by this policy at least 14 days before making any significant changes to this policy or its procedures, unless a lesser period is necessary due to risk (*Regulation 172 (2)*).



AUTHORISATION

This policy was confirmed by Sparkways on 8/12/2023.

REVIEW DUE: December 2024
