

## CLOTHING POLICY

Precious Gems Childcare Pty Ltd trading as "Kids Haven Childcare" – KIDS HAVEN

Quality Area 2

**Quality Area 2.2** Each child is protected

**Quality Area 2.1.1** Supervision.

**Quality Area 5.1** Relationship between educators and children

**Quality Area 5.1.1** Positive educator to child interactions

**Quality Area 5.1.2** Dignity and rights of the child

**National Law Section 51(1)(a)** Ensures the safety, health and wellbeing of the children being educated and cared for by the service;

**National Law Section 165** **Offence to inadequately supervise children**

**National Law Section 169(4)** **Offence relating to staffing arrangements** - A nominated supervisor of an education and care service must ensure that each educator educating and caring for children for the service meets the qualification requirements relevant to the educator's role as prescribed by the national regulations.

**National Law Section 167** Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards

**National Law Section 169** Offence relating to staffing arrangements

**National Law Section 175** Offence relating to requirement to keep enrolment and other documents

**Regulation 81** Sleep and rest

**Regulation 90** Medical Condition Policy

**Regulation 91** Medical Conditions Policy to be provided to parents

**Regulation 92** Medical Record

**Regulation 100** Risk assessment must be conducted before excursion

**Regulation 106** Laundry and hygiene facilities

**Regulation 113** Outdoor space—natural environment

**Regulation 114** Outdoor space—shade

**Regulation 155** Interactions with children

## PURPOSE

We aim to ensure the safety and comfort of all children by providing appropriate clothing guidelines for children, parents and staff utilising and working at Kids Haven.

## POLICY STATEMENT

### 1. VALUES

KIDS HAVEN believes Children being clothed appropriately enables them to play without risk of sunburn and serious injury caused by inappropriate footwear or clothing. Children are more at ease, reassured, satisfied and less anxious when they are: dressed for warmth during winter or not over-dressed during summer, or wearing safe footwear when climbing outdoor play equipment or participating in sport.

- Effective clothing and comfort strategies, including sun protection clothing, are important factors in ensuring a child feels secure and safe in a child care service environment.

- The service endeavours to consult with families about their child's individual needs and to be aware of the different values and parenting beliefs, cultural or otherwise that are associated with clothing and footwear.
- The service defines 'comfort' as a state of reassurance, satisfaction, ease, and free from anxiety or pain. For example, children are more at ease, reassured, satisfied and less anxious when they are: dressed for warmth during winter or not over-dressed during summer, or wearing safe footwear when climbing outdoor play equipment.
- In this service the term 'clothing and footwear' encompasses:
  - o safe sleepwear; o sun protective clothing, including hats;
  - o clothing for messy play, including art and craft aprons;
  - o appropriate clothing for changing weather conditions and temperature of play environments;
  - o clothing to facilitate self-help, including role play props and clothing; and o safe footwear for play experiences such as climbing and running.
- It is understood by staff, children and families that there is a shared responsibility between the service and other stakeholders that the Clothing and Comfort Policy and procedures are accepted as a high priority. \* In meeting the service's duty of care, it is a requirement that management and staff implement and adhere to the service's Clothing and Comfort Policy.

## 2. SCOPE

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, person that will be responsible for managing the day to day charges (PIDTDC), Nominated Supervisor, educators, staff, students on placement, volunteers, parents/guardians, children and others attending the programs and activities of KIDS HAVEN, including during offsite excursions and activities.

### IMPLEMENTATION

Effective clothing strategies, including sun protection clothing, are important factors in ensuring a child feels safe and secure at KIDS HAVEN.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- *Nappy Change & Toilet Policy*
- *Supervision of Children Policy*
- *Road Safety and Safe Transport Policy*
- *Dealing with infectious Diseases Policy*
- *Supervision of Children Policy*
- *Relaxation and Sleep Policy*
- *Sun Protection Policy*
- *Hygiene Policy*
- *Respect for Children Policy*

## 3. PROCEDURES

### The PIDTDC/Nominated Supervisor will:

- Ensure that a Sun Safety Policy is developed and maintained.
- Ensure that educators are provided with personal protective equipment (e.g. gloves, goggles etc.) to facilitate cleaning and health protection measures.
- Provide information for educators about suitable clothing and footwear expectations for the education and care work environment.
- Provide information for families about suitable clothing and footwear. This information will also be available at the Service using a variety of communication strategies including newsletters, brochures, websites and posters.
- Ensure educators are aware and abide by the Sun Safety Policy.

### Educators will:

- Consult and communicate with families about the individual needs of children with respect to different values and beliefs associated with clothing and footwear.
- Monitor children's clothing and footwear to ensure compliance with the Sun Protection Policy and to support the safety, comfort and well-being of every child.

- Consider clothing and footwear needs associated with excursions or planned learning experiences and communicate clearly with families about the need for extraordinary protective clothing requirements.
- Provide protective clothing, such as aprons, for messy play experiences and painting. Children will be encouraged by educators to wear protective clothing during messy and water play.
- Encourage children to remove shoes and heavy/ excess layers of clothing during rest times and to reflect the room temperature, as recommended practice by Red Nose.
- Take off children's jumpers and jackets with hoods during rest time to ensure children's safety
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- Encourage children to utilise their self-help skills where appropriate to put on and remove clothing and shoes to meet their needs. For younger children, educators will use observation and monitoring skills to ensure children's clothing and footwear is appropriate for the environment and weather conditions.
- Monitor the UV rating to ensure children are dressed appropriately for the weather
- Discuss clothing with children
- Model appropriate clothing – for example wearing hats and sun safe clothing
- Convey respect for children and appreciate their individuality.
- Encourage children to make choices in relation to getting dressed and the clothing they wear
- Respect children's privacy and modesty when having children change their clothes or dressing themselves, ensuring that individual needs and preferences are understood and catered for

#### Families will

- Provide spare clothing in children's bags to allow for dirty or soiled clothing and changing weather conditions. This includes a spare set of socks and shoes.
- Dress children appropriately, including footwear and appropriate hat.
- Ensure their Child is clothed in an appropriate manner which will allow them to explore and play freely and not restrict them using equipment while at play.
- Ensure clothing also allows easy access for toileting i.e. elasticised trousers, track pants – rather than buttons, zips, belts etc.
- Not dress their children in good/expensive clothing where there is a chance they will get stains.
- Ensure children are appropriately protected from the sun - please refer to Sun Safety Policy for further directives on hats and clothing.
- Ensure children's clothing accommodates for the weather conditions. i.e. be loose and cool in summer to prevent overheating and warm enough for cold weather – including outdoor play. At all times educators will monitor children to ensure they are appropriately dressed for all weather, play experiences, rest and sleep routines.
- Ensure children have appropriate footwear that enables them to play comfortably and not cause safety concerns. i.e. thongs, clogs or backless shoes have a trip factor and do not allow children to use equipment safely.
- Ensure all clothing and belongings must be clearly labelled with the child's name.
- Be familiar with their child's clothing fabric to minimise allergies and reactions.

## 4. SOURCES

- Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority.
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations
- Guide to the National Quality Standard
- Community Child Care Co-Operative
- Red Nose - <https://rednose.com.au>
- Cancer Council Australia – [www.cancer.org.au](http://www.cancer.org.au)
- Raising Children Network – <http://raisingchildren.net.au>
- Staying Healthy in Child Care 5<sup>th</sup> Edition

- Revised National Quality Standard

## **5. EVALUATION**

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

- regularly seek feedback from educators, staff, parents/guardians, children, management and all affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
- monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy
- ensure that all information on display and supplied to parents/guardians regarding the management of medical conditions is current
- 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
- notify parents/guardians at least 14 days before making any change to this policy or its procedures.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

## **AUTHORISATION**

This policy was adopted by the Approved Provider of Precious Gems Childcare trading as Kids Haven Childcare Kids Haven Childcare on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

**REVIEW DATE: 01/01/2024**