



WAVERLEY MEADOWS PRE-SCHOOL Assoc. Inc.

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LICENSE No. 3738 ABN: 28 483 128 625



NATURE KINDER PROTECTIVE CLOTHING POLICY

Mandatory – Quality Area 2

Purpose

This policy aims to:

- Set out clear guidelines for parents and staff regarding appropriate clothing to be worn by children attending Nature 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 Nature Kinder participants
- Provide an appropriate mechanism for communication of the protective clothing requirements for Nature Kinder sessions to parents

Policy statement

Values

Waverley Meadows Pre-School is committed to:

- Providing a safe and healthy environment for children participating in the Nature Kinder program
- Facilitating a Nature Kinder experience in a variety of (safe) weather conditions, including rain, to allow children to experience nature across as broad a spectrum as possible and without compromising the safety of the participants
- Ensuring clothing worn by children in the program allows for maximum comfort, free movement and does not obstruct the children in their activities in the Nature Kinder setting
- Facilitating communication to parents to ensure compliance with this policy

Scope

This policy applies to children, parents, staff, committee members, authorised persons, volunteers and students on placement working at Waverley Meadows Pre-School.

Background and legislation

Background

Waverley Meadows Pre-School Nature Kinder program is intended to operate across a broad spectrum of weather conditions, allowing all children to experience nature and its elements across the seasons.

Whatever the weather, children are encouraged to take the lead in playing, exploring and learning in a bush or natural environment. For this reason, there are some particular clothing requirements in the Nature Kinder setting that may differ from requirements in a centre-based environment.

Legislation and Standards

Relevant legislation may include but is not limited to:

- Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2007
- *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*
- *Education and Care Services National Law 2010*
- *National Quality Standard Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*

Definitions

The terms defined in this section relate specifically to this policy. For commonly used terms e.g. Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Regulatory Authority etc. refer to the General Definitions section of this manual - held at the kinder.

Protective and appropriate clothing & footwear: It is important that Nature Kinder participants wear appropriate and protective clothing and footwear which:

- allows children to move freely and undertake activities such as climbing, balancing, running, puddle jumping
- 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 and gripped 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 or legionnaires hat, closed toe shoes	Waterproofs*, 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 (incompatible with waterproofs)
Unacceptable clothing and footwear	Open toe shoes, sandals, thongs, Crocs, singlet tops	Non-waterproof clothing. Waterproofs on top of non waterproof clothing is acceptable.

*Waterproof Puddle Suits are provided by Waverley Meadows Pre-School Committee

Change of clothes: All children participating in Nature 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:

- a 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 (it is not recommended that gumboots are worn at all times due to the restriction of movement they impose).

Waterproofs: Light rainproof suit worn over clothing, which includes a jacket with a hood, and pants or overalls, which zip up over clothing.

Sources and related policies

Service policies

- Excursion & Regular Outing Policy
- Nature Kinder Emergency Evacuation Policy
- Nature Kinder Snake Awareness Policy

- Nature Kinder Dog Awareness Policy
- Occupational Health & Safety Policy
- Incident, Illness, Trauma & Illness Policy
- Water and Fire Safety Policy
- Supervision of Children Policy
- Child Safe Environment Policy

Procedures

The Approved Provider and persons with management or control is responsible for:

- Implementing and maintaining a Protective Clothing Policy which provides clarity to parents-and staff as to the appropriate clothing children are required to wear to Nature Kinder in various weather conditions to ensure their safety and wellbeing (including a description of clothing which should not be worn)
- All parents being aware of this policy and are provided access to the policy at orientation sessions, in written Nature Kinder material and on the Pre-School website and made available upon request.
- Supplying waterproofs.
- Ensuring staff are appropriately educated on procedures in the event that children are not wearing compliant clothing
- Ensuring the Nature Kinder on-site kit contains waterproofs

Educators are responsible for:

- Ensuring all children being dropped off to Nature Kinder are wearing appropriate clothing in line with this policy.
- If inappropriate clothing is worn, staff are to: Highlight to the parent dropping off the child which clothing is inappropriate and the reasons for it; to determine if the change of clothing brought by that child is appropriate and request the parent change the clothes on the child if need be, if the clothing has the potential to put the child's safety and wellbeing at risk and there is no suitable alternative clothing, inform parent that the child is not able to attend Nature Kinder.
- Assisting changing the child's clothing if need be
- Encouraging children to tell a staff member if they need help with clothing or feel uncomfortable.
- During orientation sessions, advising parents of the clothing requirements for Nature Kinder
- Checking the contents of the Nature Kinder 'on site kit' prior to the next day's session to ensure it contains all necessary items

Parents are responsible for:

- Ensuring protective and appropriate clothing is worn to Nature Kinder by their child in line with this policy
- Changing their child's clothing as instructed by the teacher to enable their child to participate in the Nature Kinder session if required.
- Ensuring their child's change of clothes includes items as set out in this policy
- Reading and being familiar with the policy
- Bringing relevant issues to the attention of both staff and committee

Volunteers and students, while at the service, are responsible for following this policy and its procedures.

Evaluation

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

- regularly seek feedback from everyone 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
- notify parents/guardians at least 14 days before making any changes to this policy or its procedures.

Attachments

Nil

Authorisation

This policy was adopted by the Approved Provider of Waverley Meadows Pre-School in February 2013

Last Review: September 2018 (See *Policy Schedule* for next review date)