



BEACH KINDER PROTECTIVE CLOTHING POLICY

Quality Area 2

PURPOSE

This policy aims to:

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

POLICY STATEMENT

1. VALUES

Hampton Community Kindergarten is committed to:

- Providing a safe and healthy environment for children participating in the Beach Kinder program
- Facilitating a Beach 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 Beach Kinder setting
- Facilitating communication to parents and guardians to ensure compliance with this policy

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, educators and parents/guardians with an enrolled child, or who wish to enrol a child at Hampton Community Kindergarten.

3. BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION

Hampton Community Kindergarten's Beach Kinder program is intended to operate across a broad spectrum of weather conditions, allowing 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 beach or natural environment. For this reason, there are some particular clothing requirements in the Beach Kinder setting that may differ from requirements in the home kinder environment.

Relevant legislation may include but is not limited to:

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

4. DEFINITIONS

Protective and appropriate clothing & footwear: It is important that Beach 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
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]

* Identifiable vests are provided by Hampton Community Kindergarten and waterproof clothing is available when needed.

Change of clothes: All children participating in Beach 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:

- Spare top and bottoms of appropriate thickness/weight for the weather on the day
- Spare underpants (and singlet in winter)
- 1 pair 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**).
- The Beach Kinder 'on-site kit' will contain hats and some spare clothing for general use.

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

5. SOURCES AND RELATED KINDERGARTEN POLICIES

Kindergarten policies

- Delivery & Collection of Children (main kindergarten policy)
- Excursions & Service Events Policy (main kindergarten policy)
- Bush Kinder Protective Clothing Policy (Beach Kinder Specific)
- Beach Kinder Extreme Weather Policy (Beach Kinder Specific)
- Beach Kinder Identification and Visibility Policy (Beach Kinder Specific)
- Beach Kinder Emergency Evacuation Policy (Beach Kinder Specific)
- Beach Kinder Snake Awareness Policy (Beach Kinder Specific)
- Beach Kinder Dog Awareness Policy (Beach Kinder Specific)
- Occupational Health & Safety Policy (main kindergarten policy)
- Incident, Injury, Trauma & Illness Policy (main kindergarten policy)
- Inclusion & Equity Policy (main kindergarten policy)
- Sun Protection Policy (main kindergarten policy)
- Water Safety Policy (main kindergarten policy)
- Supervision of Children Policy (main kindergarten policy)
- Nutrition, Oral Health & Active Play Policy (main kindergarten policy)
- Road Safety and Safe Transport Policy (main kindergarten policy)

PROCEDURES

General

The Committee is responsible for:

- Implementing and maintaining a Protective Clothing Policy which provides clarity to parents/guardians and educators as to the appropriate clothing children are required to wear to Bush Kinder in various weather conditions to ensure their safety and wellbeing (including a description of clothing which should not be worn)
- All parents/guardians being aware of this policy and are provided access to the policy at orientation sessions, in written Beach Kinder material and on the Beach Kinder 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 Beach Kinder 'on-site kit' contains spare clothing and hats.

Educators are responsible for:

- Ensuring all children attending Beach Kinder are wearing appropriate clothing in line with this policy. If inappropriate clothing is worn, educators are to:
 - Highlight to the parent/guardian dropping off the child which clothing is inappropriate and the reasons for it;
 - 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 (or draw on spare clothing in the Beach Kinder 'on-site kit' if available);
 - 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/guardian that the child is not able to attend Beach Kinder
- Assisting changing the child's change of clothing if need be
- Encouraging children to tell an educator if they need help with clothing or feel uncomfortable
- During orientation sessions, advising parents/guardians of the clothing requirements for Beach Kinder
- Checking the contents of the Beach Kinder 'on site kit' prior to the next day's session to ensure it contains hats and spare clothing.

Parents/guardians are responsible for:

- Ensuring protective and appropriate clothing is worn to Beach 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 Beach Kinder session if required.
- Ensure 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 educators and committee
- Changing children into and out of the waterproofs at the start and end of each session

Evaluation

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

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

AUTHORISATION

The Approved Provider of Hampton Community Kindergarten adopted this policy on:

4/4/2023