



Clothing and Footwear

It is important that children are comfortably and appropriately dressed dependent on weather conditions and activities that they may participate in while at Stepping Stones Child Care Centre.

POLICY:

It is essential for parents or guardians to ensure all clothing and other belongings are labelled clearly.

Suitable Clothing for Child Care:

Families are to ensure their children are dressed in clothing appropriate for care:

- Appropriate clothing includes t-shirts, skivvies, jumpers, tracksuit pants, jeans, leggings, shorts, etc.
- Clothing that should not be worn at the centre includes, long skirts, necklaces, bangles, long hair ribbons, thongs etc.
- Children must have at least one full change of clothing in their bag, more if toilet learning (this includes shirts, pants, underwear, socks, jumpers etc).
- If children are beginning to toilet learning, they should be dressed in clothing which is easily removed for toileting.
- Children are to wear shoes which are secured to their feet, thongs without back straps are not safe.

Suitable Clothing for Outdoors:

Children are to wear appropriate clothing and footwear for the current outdoor weather conditions:

- Parents are to provide beanies in winter (July & August) and sun hats either wide brim, bucket or legionnaire style in summer (August – June).
- Parents are to provide jackets for children during the winter months.
- Sleeveless tops are not to be worn at Stepping Stones Child Care Centre, as shoulders are easily burnt, if a child wears a sleeveless top they will be changed into a sleeved top before going outside or another top will be put over the sleeveless top.
- Children's jackets, beanies and hats are to be stored in their lockers or bags.
- Shoes and helmets must be worn when riding bikes in the outdoor play areas.
- Shoes may be removed for sand play, children are to wear shoes at all other times in the outdoor play area.
- Sunscreen will be applied to children all year round, at least 20 minutes prior to entering the outdoor play area (where possible eg. Before arriving or before going outside)
- Refer to Stepping Stones Child Care Centre Sun Safety Policy.

Suitable Clothing for Rest and Sleep:

Children are to be provided with suitable clothing, bedding and surroundings for rest and sleep times:

- Stepping Stones Child Care Centre provides all sheets and blankets required for centre bedding.
- Staff ensure room temperatures are suitable for rest and sleep times, using the heating and cooling systems that are installed throughout the centre. Suitable temperatures for rooms when the children are sleeping are between 16°C- 20°C.
- Staffs remove any restrictive clothing, including hooded jumpers and shoes from children before sleeping.
- Refer to Stepping Stones Child Care Centre Safe Sleeping and Rest Policy.

Suitable Clothing for Art Experiences:

Children are encouraged to wear appropriate protective clothing during art experiences:

- The centre provides art smocks for children engaging in art experiences, smocks are washed after use.
- Parents are encouraged to avoid sending children to Stepping Stones Child Care Centre in “good clothes” as clothing can sometimes become marked during art experiences.

Suitable clothing for excursions:

Families are required to ensure that their child is dressed in the appropriate clothing suited to the current weather and also considering if the excursion is indoors or outdoors.

Families are reminded of this policy at the changes of season via email, newsletters, and notices displayed on the notice board.

Related documents:

- Safe sleeping
- Sun safety for children and staff policy
- Approved sun smart hats notice
- Excursion policy
- Toilet learning policy and procedure

Source:

- National Childcare Accreditation Council (www.ncac.gov.au)
- SIDS & Kids (www.sidsandkids.org)
- dhcs ACT, ACT Childcare Services Standards, February 2009.
- Cancer Council (www.cancercouncil.org.au)
- http://www.grobag.com.au/range_pages.aspx?id=2

This policy links to the following CCQA Principles:

Quality Practices Guide (2005) - Principle 6.5

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Reviewed in consultation with staff and parent committee members, current at April 2009.