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Pippinvale Early Learning
LARKIN STREET, PIPPINVALE, VICTORIA

Sun Protection Policy

Reviewed by the Approved Provider, August 2026. Next review: August 2027.

Purpose

Young children's skin burns easily, and most of a lifetime's sun damage happens in childhood. This policy sets out how we protect children and educators from too much ultraviolet (UV) radiation while still giving them plenty of time outdoors.

When sun protection is used

From the start of September to the end of April, and at any other time the UV index is 3 or above. We check the daily UV forecast each morning and post the protection times beside the sign-in tablet.

Hats

Every child needs a named broad-brimmed, bucket or legionnaire hat that shades the face, neck and ears. Caps do not protect the neck and ears and are not suitable. We keep spare hats in every room, washed after each use, for children who forget theirs.

Sunscreen

Please apply SPF 50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen to your child at home or on arrival. Educators reapply it before outdoor play after rest time and every two hours outdoors. Sunscreen is provided by the centre. If your child reacts to our sunscreen, bring your own, labelled with their name.

Babies

Babies under 12 months are kept out of direct sun when the UV index is 3 or above. They play in full shade, in clothing that covers their arms and legs and a hat. Sunscreen is only used on small areas of skin that cannot be covered.

Clothing

Please dress your child in clothes that cover the shoulders, such as T-shirts with sleeves and collars. Singlet tops and shoestring straps are not suitable for outdoor play in the warmer months.

Shade

Our sandpit, mud kitchen and veggie garden are under shade sails, and the timetable moves active outdoor play to the morning on high UV days. Shade is checked as part of our yearly grounds review.

Educators

Educators wear hats and sunscreen outdoors and talk with the children about why we protect our skin, so sun safety becomes a habit.

Winter and vitamin D

From May to August, when UV levels in Victoria are usually below 3, sun protection is not needed unless the UV index rises to 3 or above. Children are encouraged to play outside in the middle of the day in these months.

Questions about this policy are welcome. Speak with the director at the centre, or call (03) 5550 0178.