

Clothing Policy

1. Objective

The Annie Dennis Children's Centre (ADCC) will ensure that children are comfortably and appropriately dressed throughout the day, especially with respect to weather conditions, play activities and safe sleeping guidelines. The ADCC Sun Protection Policy should be read in conjunction with this policy.

2. Definitions

Staff: Includes permanent, agency, casual, long and short term appointments

3. Dressing for weather conditions

Parents are asked to provide a warm jacket and hat for children to wear outside in colder weather. Please refer to the Sun Protection Policy for dressing in warmer weather.

4. Dressing for play

All children of both genders should be able to play freely and engage in all activities without being restricted by clothing that is inappropriate or dangerous for play.

Parents are asked not to send children in very good clothes that may get marked during these experiences. The centre will provide protective smocks, pants and aprons for the children to wear. If children are not comfortable wearing the centre's protective clothing, they are encouraged to provide their own.

Children's clothing should allow freedom of movement allowing children to play safely. Clothes that fit properly, without being too loose or tight, allow children to move freely and comfortably and to participate in different experiences. Parents are asked not to dress children in clothing, such as long skirts, which may catch on climbing equipment.

5. Dressing for safe sleeping

During rest/sleep time restrictive clothing and footwear will be removed. The staff will ensure that:

- the room temperature is satisfactory for a comfortable rest
- children do not rest near heaters, and
- children are dressed warmly for rest/sleep time and checked regularly to see that they are covered

For further information about safe sleeping practices refer to the Safe Sleeping Policy.

6. Dressing for independence

Staff encourage children to dress and undress independently. Parents and guardians are asked to dress their child in clothes that allows them to practice and develop their self help skills, for example:

- elasticised waist pants or skirts.
- velcro strap shoes, and
- no overalls, zips or belts.

7. Shoes for safe play and comfort

ADCC ask parents to dress their child in well fitting, safe, comfortable footwear which allows them to run, jump, climb and ride bikes.

In warmer weather, children should preferably wear closed toe sandals with a broad heel base for increased stability. The children may only remove their shoes outside for playing in the sandpit. Children should not wear thongs, slip on shoes, jiffies, crocs or shoes with high heels.

In colder weather children should wear closed footwear such as boots or sneakers. Leather shoes are preferable because they are durable and can breathe. Children should not come to the centre in gumboots, as we supply these for messy activities.

Things to remember when choosing footwear:

- a broad toe box- if the shoe is too shallow this can cause pressure on the toes
- footwear should fit the longer of the two feet and there should be approximately 8-10mm of room beyond the longest toe
- the heel counter should be firm and feel snug as this helps to keep the heel and the foot stable, and
- a shock absorbing sole- to minimise jarring through the foot, leg and spine.

8. Respect for children and families

Staff will convey respect for children and an appreciation of their individuality by building in opportunities for them to make choices in relation to getting dressed, and the clothing they wear. However, issues relating to health, safety and the child's play and learning are the most important.

Staff will be aware of individual children's and families attitudes towards privacy and modesty when children are having their clothes changed or are dressing themselves. Older children will have access to safe comfortable and private spaces for dressing and changing. Staff will work with children and families to ensure that individual needs and preferences are understood and catered for.

Respect is important in addressing issues about clothing with families. Staff will work with families to have a better understanding of their particular cultural

traditions regarding clothing and understand that there may be a range of cultural and religious issues related to dress. Staff will be respectful and understanding of families' choices.

9. Model appropriate dress

Staff are required to wear sunhats and sun safe clothing while outside, and wear clothing and shoes that are safe, and that allow them to comfortably and easily interact with and care for the children.

10. Key Responsibilities and Authorities

The parents/guardians will

- ensure their child's is dressed to promote health, safety and comfort and freedom to play and learn
- be responsible for their personal adherence to this policy.

The staff will

- work with children and families to ensure that clothing and dressing practices maximise each child's experiences and development in child care, and
- be responsible for their personal adherence to this policy.

The Centre will

- ensure that all staff are aware and understand this policy, and
- be responsible for implementing and evaluating this policy.

The **Administration of Medication policy** is linked to the *National Early Years Learning Framework*.

Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity

Children feel safe, secure and supported

Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world

Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment

Date Approved by the COM 21 February 2011

Next review date February 2013

Key Source documents

www.podiatrycare.com.au

SIDS and kids safe sleeping childcare kit (November 2005)

Sunsmart (Victoria) Early Childhood- Sunsmart FAQs- facts sheet page 1-5 (22 March 2006)

www.raisingchildren.net.au