

CANCER PREVENTION IN ACTION | NYS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Creative Minds Childcare Program | Sun Safety Policy

One bad sunburn in childhood doubles the risk of skin cancer later in life. Children's skin needs protection from the sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays whenever they are outdoors. The risk for skin cancer can be greatly reduced when certain precautions are practiced.

Therefore,

Creative Minds Childcare Program is committed to ensuring that all children and staff are protected from skin damage caused by harmful UV radiation of the sun by implementing the following sun safety policy.

Sunscreen

- *Apply broad spectrum, water resistant SPF 15 or higher sunscreen to all exposed areas on children and rub in well- especially the face (avoiding the eyes), nose, ears, feet, and hands 30 minutes before exposure to the sun and every two hours while in the sun.

- *If playing in water, reapplication will be needed more frequently.

- *If the skin is broken or an allergic reaction is observed, staff will discontinue use and notify the parent/guardian.

- *Staff will be encouraged to apply sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher) before going outside with the children.

Hat, Protective Clothing, and Sunglasses

- *Staff and children will be encouraged to wear sun-protective gear when outside. This includes wide brimmed hats, child safe sunglasses, and sun-protective clothing.

Scheduling and Shade Protection

- *Consider shade when planning outdoor activities with children.

- *Provide sufficient areas of shade on the outdoor play area and encourage children to seek shaded areas for outdoor activities.

- *Staff will remind and encourage children to use available shade during outdoor activities.

*Monitor the heat index and schedule outdoor activities accordingly. Staff and children will be watched carefully for heat-related illnesses.

*Limit sun exposure between 10am and 4pm, when the UV radiation is the strongest. The availability of shade will be considered when planning excursions and outdoor activities during these times.

Education and Communication

*New staff will be oriented to this policy at time of hire.

*Staff will be trained on sun safety guidelines, proper sunscreen application, and the proper protocols that are implemented for skin allergies.

*Parents will receive a copy of the Sun Safety Policy

*Parents will be asked to provide a suitable hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen (nonexpired, broad spectrum, water resistant, SPF 15 or higher) for their child's use when outdoors in the childcare setting.

*Parents will be required to complete and sign a Parent/Guardian's permission to apply sunscreen form and it shall remain on file at the program. *Any allergies to sunscreen will be written on this form.

*Parents will be encouraged to model sun safe behaviors themselves and practice these guidelines with their children when not at the childcare program.

Policy adopted on 7/10/2019 and will be updated yearly.