



## **Sun Safety Policy**

### ***Stony Brook Child Care***

***Rationale:*** 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 when they are outdoors. The risk for skin cancer can be greatly reduced when certain precautions are practiced. Therefore, Stony Brook Child Care is committed to ensuring that all children and staff are protected from skin damage caused by harmful UV radiation from the sun by implementing the following sun safety policy.

#### ***Policy:***

##### ***Sunscreen:***

- Parents/guardians will be required to provide children with sunscreen with SPF 15 or higher and broad-spectrum protection, and provide a parental consent form as per NYS Office of Children and Family Services requirements.
- Parents/guardians will be encouraged to apply sunscreen with SPF 15 or higher and broad-spectrum protection to their child(ren) prior to or upon arrival each morning. Daily sunscreen is recommended in all seasons, especially during the summer.
- Staff will apply sunscreen provided by parent/guardian to all exposed areas on children and rub in well 30 minutes before exposure to the sun and every two hours while in the sun, as needed. If playing in water, reapplication will be needed more frequently. Staff are required to wear gloves when applying sunscreen to children, and to change gloves between each child sunscreen is applied to. If the skin is broken or an allergic reaction is observed, staff will discontinue use and notify parent/guardian.
- If parent/guardian does not provide children with appropriate sunscreen, staff will provide a reminder to parent/guardian, and take other applicable action as determined by Stony Brook Child Care.
- If a family is facing financial barriers (eligibility to be determined by Stony Brook Child Care), they can request sunscreen to be provided free of charge for their child. Sunscreen will be SPF 15 or higher, broad-spectrum sunscreen.
- Staff will be encouraged to wear sunscreen with SPF 15 or higher with broad-spectrum protection before going outside with children during work hours.
- Sunscreen with SPF 15 or higher with broad spectrum protection will be made available to staff during outdoor work hours.

*Sun-protective clothing and equipment:*

- Parents/guardians will be encouraged to provide children with sun-protective clothing and equipment for outdoor activities including wide-brimmed hats, sun-protective clothing, and UV protective sunglasses (age appropriate, shatter-resistant).
- Staff will encourage children to wear sun-protective clothing and equipment during outdoor activities.
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*Shade:*

- Shade will be considered when planning outdoor activities for children and used wherever possible to reduce exposure to UV radiation.
- Sufficient areas of shade will be provided at outdoor play areas, and staff will encourage children to use shaded areas for play and activities whenever possible.
- Staff will monitor temperature, UV index, and heat advisories daily, and schedule outdoor activities accordingly.
- Whenever possible, children will be kept out of direct sunlight between the hours of 10am-4pm when UV radiation is at its strongest.

*Sun safety for infants:*

- Staff will keep infants under 6 months out of direct sunlight.
- Sunscreen will not be used on infants under 6 months. A written order from a healthcare provider is required if parent/guardian requests sunscreen be applied to an infant under 6 months.
- Parents/guardians of infants under 6 months will be encouraged to provide infants with wide-brimmed hats and sun-protective clothing (when temperature is reasonable).
- Parents/guardians of infants under 6 will be provided with reminders to provide sunscreen for their child and a parental consent form beginning at 6 months of age.

*Staff training:*

- This sun safety policy will be made available to all child care staff.
- New child care staff will be trained on this policy upon new staff orientation.
- All child care staff will be trained on this policy upon its implementation, and annually thereafter.
- All child care staff will be trained on sun safety for young children, skin cancer prevention, and proper sunscreen application annually.
- The sun safety policy will be reinforced to staff via verbal, written, and electronic communications.

*Parent/guardian education:*

- This sun safety policy will be included in the parent handbook and provided to all parents/guardians.

- When new children are enrolled, parents/guardians will:
  - Receive a copy of the sun safety policy, included in the parent handbook
  - Be asked to provide appropriate sunscreen and sun-protective clothing and equipment for their child's use when outdoors.
  - Be required to complete and sign a Parent/Guardian's Permission to Apply Sunscreen Form which shall remain on file. This form will be updated annually. A written order from a healthcare provider is required if requesting sunscreen be applied to an infant under 6 months.
  - Be encouraged to model sun safe behaviors for children.
- The sun safety policy will be reinforced to parents/guardians via verbal, written, and electronic communications.
- Parents/guardians will be provided with educational materials on skin cancer prevention and sun safety for young children on a routine basis and upon request.

*Children education:*

- As age appropriate, sun safety education will be incorporated into the curriculum.
- As age appropriate, children will be educated on proper sunscreen application for themselves and will be encouraged to practice applying sunscreen in easy to reach areas under supervision of staff. Staff will ensure sunscreen is applied and rubbed in fully.
- Sun safety signage will be posted in indoor and outdoor classroom spaces wherever feasible and appropriate.

***Policy Monitoring and Review:*** Stony Brook Child Care will evaluate this policy on an annual basis

***Contact Regarding Policy:*** Contact Kathleen Catalano with questions or concerns about the policy.

***Date Policy Adopted:*** 10/1/2023

***Date Policy Updated:*** N/A