

Best Practice - Quality Area 2

PURPOSE

This policy aims to:

- Set out clear guidelines for parents and staff regarding appropriate clothing to be worn by children attending Bush Kinder in various weather conditions to ensure their safety and wellbeing (including a description of clothing which should not be worn)
- Provide clear guidelines regarding the change of clothes requirements for Bush Kinder participants
- Provide an appropriate mechanism for communication of the protective clothing requirements for Bush Kinder sessions to parents

POLICY STATEMENT

1. VALUES

Kurboroo Kindergarten is committed to:

- Providing a safe and healthy environment for children participating in the Bush Kinder program
- Facilitating a Bush Kinder experience in a variety of (safe) weather conditions, including rain, to allow children to experience nature across as broad a spectrum as possible and without compromising the safety of the participants
- Ensuring clothing worn by children in the program allows for maximum comfort, free movement and does not obstruct the children in their activities in the Bush Kinder setting
- Facilitating communication to parents to ensure compliance with this policy

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to children, parents, staff, committee members, authorised persons, volunteers and students on placement working at Kurboroo Kindergarten.

3. BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION

Background

Kurboroo Kindergarten’s Bush Kinder program is intended to operate across a broad spectrum of weather conditions, allowing children to experience nature and its elements across the seasons. Whatever the weather, children are encouraged to take the lead in playing, exploring and learning in a bush or natural environment.

For this reason, there are some particular clothing requirements in the Bush Kinder setting that may differ from requirements in a centre-based environment.

Legislation and Standards

Relevant legislation may include but is not limited to:

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

Education and Care Services National Law 2010

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National Quality Standard

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2007

4. DEFINITIONS

The terms defined in this section relate specifically to this policy. For commonly used terms e.g. Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Regulatory Authority etc. refer to the *General Definitions* section of this manual.

Protective and appropriate clothing & footwear:

It is important that Bush Kinder participants wear appropriate and protective clothing and footwear which:

- allows children to move freely and undertake activities such as climbing, balancing, running, puddle jumping
- keeps children warm and dry in cold/wet weather
- protects children from the damaging effects of the sun, UV rays in warm weather and high UV conditions.
- prevents sunburn, bites, scratches and stings. (Even in warm weather, long sleeve tops and long pants are recommended - this clothing should be loose fitting and light).
- Where possible is made from natural fabrics which allow the body to breathe and is comfortable against the skin
- In the case of footwear, keeps feet and toes covered and has a flexible and gripped sole to allow children to climb and balance on uneven surfaces

The following table provides examples of recommended clothing, clothing which is not recommended and unacceptable clothing:

	Warm Weather	Cold Weather/Rain
Recommended clothing and footwear	Light loose fitting long sleeve pants, broad brimmed or legionnaires hat, closed toe shoes	Waterproofs*, long pants, long sleeved top, beanie, waterproof gloves, thermals in very cold weather
Not recommended	Short sleeved tops, long skirts or dresses, shorts	Skirts, dresses (incompatible with waterproofs)
Unacceptable clothing and footwear	Open toe shoes, sandals, thongs, crocs, singlet tops	Non-waterproof clothing. (Waterproofs on top of non-waterproof clothing is acceptable).

Change of clothes: All children participating in Bush Kinder are required to bring a change of clothes and footwear as these may become wet and muddy. It is recommended that the spare clothing include:

- Spare top and bottoms of appropriate thickness/weight for the weather on the day

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- Spare underpants (and singlet in winter)
- 2 pairs of socks
- 1 pair of gumboots (it is not recommended that gumboots are worn at all times due to the restriction of movement they impose).

Waterproofs: Light rainproof suit worn over clothing, which includes a jacket with a hood, and pants or overalls, which zip up over clothing.

5. SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES

Service Policies

- 2.13 Excursion and Service Events Policy*
- 2.25 Bush Kinder Delivery & Collection of Children Policy (Bush Kinder Specific)*
- 2.24 Bush Kinder snake awareness policy*
- 2.26 Bush Kinder Extreme Weather Policy (Bush Kinder Specific)*
- 2.27 Bush Kinder Identification and Visibility Policy (Bush Kinder Specific)*
- 2.28 Bush Kinder Emergency Evacuation Policy (Bush Kinder Specific)*
- 2.29 Bush Kinder Protective Clothing Policy (Bush Kinder Specific)*
- 2.30 Bush Kinder Dog Awareness Policy (Bush Kinder Specific)*
- 3.01 Occupational Health & Safety Policy*
- 2.16 Injury Incident, Trauma & Illness Policy*
- 2.19 Sun Protection Policy*
- 2.21 Water Safety Policy*
- 2.20 Supervision of Children Policy*
- 2.06 Child Safe Environment Policy*

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Approved Provider and Persons with Management or Control are responsible for:

- Implementing and maintaining a Protective Clothing Policy which provides clarity to parents and staff as to the appropriate clothing children are required to wear to Bush Kinder in various weather conditions to ensure their safety and wellbeing (including a description of clothing which should not be worn)
- All parents being aware of this policy and are provided access to the policy at orientation sessions, in written Bush Kinder material and on the Bush Kinder website, and made available upon request.

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- Ensuring staff are appropriately educated on procedures in the event that children are not wearing compliant clothing

All Staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring all children being dropped off to Bush Kinder are wearing appropriate clothing in line with this policy. If inappropriate clothing is worn, staff are to:
 - Highlight to the parent dropping off the child which clothing is inappropriate and the reasons for it;
 - Determine if the change of clothing brought by that child is appropriate and request the parent change the clothes on the child if need be;
 - If the clothing has the potential to put the child’s safety and wellbeing at risk and there is no suitable alternative clothing, inform parent that the child is not able to attend Bush Kinder
 - Assisting changing the child’s change of clothing if need be
 - Encouraging children to tell a staff member if they need help with clothing or feel uncomfortable.
 - During orientation sessions, advising parents of the clothing requirements for Bush Kinder

Parents/guardians are responsible for:

- Ensuring protective and appropriate clothing is worn to Bush Kinder by their child in line with this policy
- Changing their child’s clothing as instructed by the teacher to enable their child to participate in the Bush Kinder session if required.
- Ensure their child’s change of clothes includes items as set out in this policy
- Reading and being familiar with the policy
- Bringing relevant issues to the attention of both staff and committee
- Changing children into and out of the waterproofs at the start and end of each session

REVIEW

To assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the Approved Provider or Persons with Management or Control will:

- regularly seek feedback from everyone affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness, particularly in relation to identifying and responding to child safety concerns
- monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy
- keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
- revise the policy and procedures as part of the service’s policy review cycle, or as required
- notify parents/guardians at least 14 days before making any changes to this policy or its procedures (Regulation 172(2)) unless a lesser period is necessary because of a risk.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

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AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the Approved Provider of Kurboroo Kindergarten in October 2020

REVIEW DATE: October 2022

This policy will be reviewed every two years unless deemed necessary earlier.

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