**ALLOWAY EARLY YEARS CENTRE**

**SUN PROTECTION POLICY**

RATIONALE

*“You have the right to the best health care possible, safe water to drink, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment, and information to help you stay well”. (Article 24)*

(UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, 1989)

AIM

To ensure children are protected from the harmful rays of the sun.

OBJECTIVES

* Staff and students are aware of the importance of protecting children from the sun rays.
* Parent/carers are aware of their responsibility to protect their children from the sun.
* Staff will ensure children are not exposed to sun rays for long periods of time during the summer months.

IMPLEMENTATION

Young children have thinner, more delicate skin than adults. Because of this, their risk of getting sunburnt is much higher. We want all children and staff to have the benefit of spending time outside in safety without the danger of the harmful effects of the sun. We work with the staff team, carers to accomplish this through a variety of ways.

* Parents/carers will be encouraged to apply sunscreen prior to dropping their child off at the setting for their children as well as providing sun hats and suitable clothing. Parents/carers will be asked if suncream has been applied when they arrive at the EYC in the morning. If a child has not had suncream applied, EYC staff will ask parent/carer to apply this, or will seek permission to apply this.
* Parents/carers will be asked to give permission for the staff to apply and re-apply sun cream purchased by the centre. The centre uses Lacura extra sensitive SPF 50.
* We encourage parents to dress their children in cotton clothing that is loose and of close-weave fabric. Children should be encouraged to wear hats with rims so that most of their face is shaded.
* Parents/carers whose children are sensitive to sunscreen should try to find another option or ensure that their child is well covered. Allergies are recorded in the medical cupboard.
* Remember to reapply cream on children if they have been playing in the water.
* Experiences set up outdoors should be kept in the shade where possible and children encouraged to use shaded areas for their games.
* Sunscreen should be applied that is at least factor 30, to all exposed parts of the body 15-30 minutes before going out in the sun, on the shoulders, necks, ears, noses and tops of feet etc.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually or as required in light of experience or any new national/local initiatives.

Updated Sept 25 – L. Miller