**SUN PROTECTION POLICY**

We recognise the importance of both sun safety and ensuring children access enough sunlight to maintain their levels of vitamin D. We will work in partnership with families to give children the opportunity to enjoy the sun safely. Although this advice often refers to ‘children’ we also advise all adults within the nursery to follow these guidelines.

When the weather is warm:

* We will encourage the children to seek shade between 11am and 3pm.
* Sunhats must be worn, we will have a selection of spare hats available if anyone forgets theirs. We recommend sunhats which cover the ears and neck, such as a wide-brimmed, or legionnaire’s style.
* Sunhats will help to protect the eyes, however sunglasses with wraparound lenses or wide arms with the CE Mark and European Standard EN 1836:2005 can also be worn.
* Children will be encouraged not to look directly at the sun.
* Appropriate clothing must be worn-loose fitting clothes in a light material which fully covers the child’s chest, back, arms and legs. As a minimum children must wear a tshirt which covers their shoulders. Vest style tops/dresses will not be permitted during warmer weather.
* Sandals may be worn, however to prevent accidents they must have straps which secure them to the child’s feet- for example crocs with the back strap up are fine, flip flops are not.
* When a child arrives at nursery dressed unsuitably for the warmer weather, their parent/carer will be asked to change their clothing/footwear before they can begin their session.
* Drinking water will always be accessible to the children.
* Children will be encouraged to drink more and have periods of rest throughout the day.
* Parents/carers must apply a suitable, all day sun cream to their child before they come into nursery. *The NHS currently recommends this is cream with an SPF of 30 or above, and a minimum 4-star UVA protection*. Practitioners are unable to apply sun cream to children within the nursery day\*. If for any reason a parent/carer has been unable to do this they should alert a staff member, who will ensure the child does not have access to any outdoor areas for that session.
* *\*If a child has a medical reason as to why they cannot have all day sun cream, their family may provide sun cream prescribed by their doctor, with a medicine label attached, for staff to apply.*
* We will use this opportunity to discuss sun safety with the children.

Policy revised December 2021 Lisa Gray