Sun Care Policy

At Pumpkin Pie Childcare we are committed to ensuring that all children are fully protected from the dangers of too much sun/UV rays. Severe sunburn in childhood can lead to the development of malignant melanoma (the most dangerous type of skin cancer) in later life.

We follow guidance from the weather and UV level reports and use the following procedures to keep children safe and healthy in the sun:

* Key persons will work with the parents of their key children to decide and agree on suitable precautions to protect children from burning, including those with more sensitive skin types and those that may be more tolerant to the sunshine, e.g. black and/or Asian colouring
* Children should bring a labelled sun hat which will be worn whilst outside in sunny weather. This hat will preferably be of legionnaires design (i.e. with an extended back and side to shield children’s neck and ears from the sun) to provide additional protection
* Children must come to nursery with 50+ factor suncream applied and we will apply additional suncream throughout the day unless you advise us that their own must be applied. If so, a high factor sun cream with their name on must be provided at all times. This enables children to have sun cream suitable for their own individual needs. Staff must be aware of the expiry date and discard sunscreen after this date
* Parents are requested to supply light-weight cotton clothing for their children suitable for the sun, with long sleeves and long legs
* Children’s safety and welfare in hot weather is the nursery’s prime objective so staff will work closely with parents to ensure all appropriate cream and clothing is provided
* Staff will make day-to-day decisions about the length of time spent outside depending on the strength of the sun. Sunshades will be used in all gardens throughout the day and discretion will be used to ensure that children do not stay in direct sunlight at peak times, or for longer periods.
* Children will always have sun cream applied before going outside in the hot weather and at frequent intervals during the day
* Children are encouraged to drink cooled water more frequently throughout sunny or warm days and this will be accessible both indoors and out
* Children are made aware of the need for sun hats, sun cream and the need to drink more fluids during their time in the sun
* Shade will be provided to ensure children are able to still go out in hot weather, cool down or escape the sun should they wish or need to.

**Vitamin D**

Sunlight is important for the body to receive vitamin D. We need vitamin D to help the body absorb calcium and phosphate from our diet. These minerals are important for healthy bones, teeth and muscles. Our body creates vitamin D from direct sunlight on our skin when we are outdoors. Most people can make enough vitamin D from being out in the sun daily for short periods with their hands or other body parts uncovered. Sun cream will stop the ultraviolet B (UVB) rays from reaching your skin, so part of your body should be uncovered and not have sun cream on. At nursery we find the right balance to protecting children from sunburn as well as allowing the skin to access the sun for the vitamin D benefits, e.g. hands will be left without sun cream but children will be fully monitored to ensure no hands are burnt.

The benefits will be discussed with parents and their wishes will be followed with regard to the amount of sun cream applied.

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| **This policy was adopted on** | **Signed on behalf of the nursery** | **Date for review** |
| *June 2023* | *Lucy Grieve* | *June 2024* |