

Early Years Services – QA2.23 Bush/Beach Kindergarten Protective Clothing & Visibility

TRIM Reference: D15/74606 Due for Review: 11 October 2026
Responsible Officer: Coordinator Early Years

Purpose

This policy outlines Surf Coast Shire Council's commitment to ensuring the safety, health and wellbeing of children when participating in the early Years Services Bush and Beach Kinder activities in regards to:

- Appropriate clothing to be worn by children and staff whilst attending Bush/Beach kinder, in various weather conditions.
- Ensuring children and staff at Bush/Beach kinder are clearly visible and identifiable to each other and members of the public.

Policy Principles

Evidence of link to National Quality Standards: 1.1, 1.3, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3,

Evidence of link to Education and Care Services National Regulations: r 73, 74, 75, 76, 86, 87, 168 (2) (b), 177

Evidence of link to Education and Care Services National Law: Sections 165, 166 167, 168, 174, 174A

Evidence of link to Victorian Children's Services Regulations 7.1.2

Occupational Health & Safety Act 2004

Occupational Health & Safety Regulations 2017

Scope

This policy applies to all Surf Coast Shire Council Early Years Services staff, students, volunteers, children and their families accessing the services.

Policy

The Surf Coast Early Years Management is responsible for:

- approving Bush/Beach kinder sites in consultation with SCS open space and environment departments or other external land managers;
- ensuring all Bush/Beach Kinder groups have approved risk assessments in place;
- ensuring staff have read all policies and work instructions related to bush/beach kinder practices;
- providing appropriate identification methods for children and staff to wear to ensure that they are identifiable.

Staff/educators are responsible for:

- ensuring risk assessments have been completed for bush/beach kinder sites and approved by Management;
- ensuring parent/guardians have signed the parent authority form for their child to attend bush/beach kinder;
- all staff sign the applicable site WH&S bush/beach kinder checklist at the beginning of each session;
- ensuring all children are wearing identifiable high visibility vests;
- ensuring all staff, volunteers and students are wearing high visibility vests;
- ensuring all staff, volunteers and students are wearing appropriate clothing and footwear.

Parents/guardians are responsible for:

- ensuring that children are wearing appropriate clothing and footwear;
- reading and being familiar with the policy;
- bringing relevant issues to the attention of both staff and committee.

Identifiable clothing:

Bush Kinder children will be clearly identifiable through wearing high visibility vests. Staff, volunteers and students will be identifiable by wearing high visibility vests.

Appropriate/Protective Clothing:

The Surf Coast Shire Council Bush/Beach Kinder program is intended to operate across a broad spectrum of weather conditions, allowing children and staff to experience nature and its elements across the seasons. Children are encouraged to take the lead in playing, exploring and learning in a bush or natural environment.

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

Protective and appropriate clothing & footwear:

It is important that all Bush Kinder participants, including staff, volunteers, students and children wear appropriate and protective clothing and footwear which:

- allows children to move freely and undertake activities such as climbing, balancing and running;
- 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);
- footwear should keep feet and toes covered and have a flexible sole to allow children to climb and balance on uneven surfaces.

Weather	Recommended	Not Recommended	Unacceptable
Warm Weather	Light loose fitting long sleeve tops and long pants - Where possible is made from natural fabrics which allow the body to breathe and is comfortable against the skin.	Short sleeved tops, skirts, dresses or shorts.	Open toe shoes, sandals, thongs, crocs, singlet tops/dresses.
Cold Weather / Rain	Puddle suits, waterproof jacket, waterproof pants, long pants, long sleeved top, beanie, waterproof gloves, thermals in very cold weather.	Short sleeved tops, skirts, dresses or shorts.	Non-waterproof clothing Open toe shoes, sandals, thongs, crocs, singlet tops/dresses.

For hygiene reasons, Bush Kinder identifiable broad brimmed hats and beanies will **NOT** be provided by the kindergarten. Parents will be asked to provide these items for their children so that headwear is not being shared between children.

Definitions

Nil.

Related Procedure

Nil.

References

Related Surf Coast Shire Council and Early Years Services Policies

- WHS 22.0 Working in Seasonal Heat
- WHS 21.0 Protection of Outdoor Workers from Ultraviolet Radiation
- WHS 4.0 Personal Protective Equipment and Clothing
- MPP- 018 Staff Workplace Health & Safety Policy

WHS 8.0	First Aid
WHS 9.0	Incident/Injury Reporting and Investigation
WHS 2.0	Hazard Inspection, Risk Assessment and Control
WHS 32.0	Infectious Diseases
D14/70705	Early Years Excursions Policy
D15/35312	Early Years Child Safe Environment Policy
D15/16286	Early Years Access and Inclusion Policy
D15/74634	Bush/Beach Kinder Educational Program
D15/74476	Bush/Beach Kinder Extreme Weather Policy
D15/73628	Bush/Beach Kinder Emergency Evacuation Policy
D15/35300	Sun Protection Policy
D14/94986	Early Years First Aid Policy
D15/16286	Early Years Access and Inclusion Policy
D15/33004	Early Years Supervision of Children Policy
D15/16297	Early Years Services Enrolment Policy
D14/94973	Early Years Delivery and Collection of Children Policy

Related Surf Coast Shire Council and Early Years Services Works Instructions and Forms

D17/23578	Template Regular Outing Authority
D19/24712	Template - Excursion Parent Permission Form
D21/221509	Template - Bush Kinder Regular Excursion Authority
D14/87971	Early Years Excursion/Incursion Risk assessment Management Plan Template
D14/4850	WHS 9.1 Incident Report Form
WHS 18.10	Bush Kinder Checklist

Other References

- Staying Healthy in Child Care, 5th Edition, NHMRC, 2013
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
- ACECQA National Quality Framework Resource Kit (www.acecqa.gov.au)
- Childcare Service Handbook (Department of Education)
- Staying Healthy in Child Care, 5th Edition, NHMRC, 2013
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2007
- Occupational Health and Safety Compliance Codes, First Aid in the Workplace (2008)
- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 (National Law)
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 (The Regulations) and the National Quality Standard (Schedule 1 of the Regulations)

Document History

Version	Document History	Approved by – Date
1	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Manager Aged & Family – 1 October 2015</i>
2	Amended	Manager Aged & Family 3 January 2018
3	Amended	Manager Community Strengthening 9 August 2019
4	Amended	Manager Community Strengthening 24 December 2020
5	Amended	Manager Community Strengthening 28 July 2022
6	Amended	Manager Community Strengthening 11 April 2024