EARLY LEARNING CENTRE WEATHER POLICY

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD RELATED STANDARDS/REGULATIONS

Standard 2.2  Safety: Each child is protected
Element 2.2.1  At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.

AIM

To have a consistent approach across the ELC to outdoor experiences, in all weather situations.

EXPLANATION

Opportunities to engage in outdoor experiences and important to children’s learning and development, In particular, opportunities to engage with nature and to develop gross motor skills are promoted through outdoor play. In Canberra, weather can be highly variable from very hot summer days, to very cold winter days. This policy seeks to outline the ELC approach to offering outdoor experiences in all weather conditions.

PRACTICE

Where the forecast temperature for the day is below 0 degrees:

• Children will remain indoors
• Classes will be provided with scheduled time in the Piazza (if required) for physical activity (the Piazza will be cleared of furniture to allow for this)

Where the forecast temperature for the day is between 0 and 29.9 degrees:

• Outdoor play sessions will occur as per normal scheduled times
• No limits are placed on the length of time children are outdoors (sun safety and easy access to water are maintained)

*NOTE: in cold weather above 0 degrees, children will go outdoors to play. Children should come dressed appropriately for cold weather outdoor play, wearing jackets, beanies, scarves, gloves and alike.
Where the forecast temperature for the day is between 30 and 34.9 degrees:

- Outdoor play sessions will occur as per normal scheduled times
- Educators will facilitate additional water play
- Educators will monitor metal equipment and place items in the shade
- Children will be encouraged to play in shaded areas
- Mealtimes will be conducted within the ELC grounds
- Children will remain outdoors for no longer than 1 hour at a time (including nature walks)
- Children will have easy access to water bottles and will be encouraged to drink regularly

When the forecast temperature for the day is 35 degrees or higher:

- Outdoor play sessions will be reduced to max. 30 mins and outdoor play will occur early in the day
- Educators will facilitate additional water play
- Educators will monitor metal equipment and place items in the shade
- Children will be encouraged to play in shaded areas
- Classes will be provided with scheduled time in the Piazza (if required) for additional physical activity (the Piazza will be cleared of furniture to allow for this)
- No nature walks will be conducted
- Mealtimes will be conducted within the ELC classrooms (air conditioned)
- Children will have easy access to water bottles and will be encouraged to drink regularly

Children will not be permitted to play outdoors when it is raining; however, play in puddles following rain is permitted. Rubber boots are provided to facilitate play in mud. Children will be changed into dry clothing if they become wet during this play.

Reviewed and updated by ELC staff 28/2/2018