

BUSH KINDER PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

QUALITY AREA 2



Working in partnership with Cancer Council Victoria, ELAA has aligned this policy to the key policies and guidelines of the Healthy Early Childhood Services Achievement Program.

This policy, Bush Kinder Protective Clothing, is a special circumstance policy which augments the main Ferguson Park Preschool *Supervision of Children Policy* and should be read in conjunction with this policy.



PURPOSE

This policy provides a clear set of guidelines and procedures for Ferguson Park Preschool to:

- set out clear guidelines for parents and staff regarding appropriate clothing to be worn by children attending Bush Kinder in various weather conditions to ensure their safety and wellbeing (including a description of clothing which should not be worn)
- provide clear guidelines regarding the change of clothes requirements for Bush Kinder participants
- provide an appropriate mechanism for communication of the protective clothing requirements for Bush Kinder sessions to parents.



POLICY STATEMENT

VALUES

Ferguson Park Preschool is committed to:

- providing a safe and healthy environment for children and staff participating in the Bush Kinder program
- facilitating a Bush Kinder experience in a variety of (safe) weather conditions, including rain, to allow children to experience nature across as broad a spectrum as possible without compromising the safety of the participants
- ensuring clothing worn by children in the program allows for maximum comfort, free movement and does not obstruct the children in their activities in the Bush Kinder setting
- facilitating communication to parents to ensure compliance with this policy

SCOPE

This policy applies to the approved provider, persons with management or control, nominated supervisor, persons in day-to-day charge, early childhood teachers, educators, staff, students, volunteers, parents/guardians, children, and others attending the programs and activities of Ferguson Park Preschool Bush Kinder program.



RESPONSIBILITIES	Approved provider and persons with management or control	Nominated supervisor and persons in day-to-day charge	Early childhood teacher, educators and all other staff	Parents/guardians	Contractors, volunteers and students
R indicates legislation requirement, and should not be deleted					
Implementing and maintaining this Protective Clothing Policy which provides clarity to parents/guardians and staff as to the appropriate clothing children are required to wear to Bush Kinder in various weather conditions to ensure their safety and wellbeing (including a description of clothing which should not be worn)	R				
All parents being aware of this policy and are provided access to the policy at orientation sessions, in written Bush Kinder Parent Handbook and on the website, and made available upon request	R				
Supplying waterproofs	R				
Ensuring staff are appropriately educated on procedures in the event that children are not wearing compliant clothing	R				
Bringing any relevant issues to attention of the Committee and/or Nillumbik Shire Council in a timely manner	R	✓			
Ensuring all children being dropped off to kinder on the day of Bush Kinder are wearing appropriate clothing in line with this policy. If inappropriate clothing is worn, make sure the child has appropriate clothing in the spare bag		✓	✓	✓	
Assisting changing the child's clothing if the need arises		✓	✓	✓	
Encouraging children to tell a staff member if they need help with clothing or feel uncomfortable		✓	✓		
During orientation sessions, advising parents of the clothing requirements for Bush Kinder		✓	✓		
Checking the contents of the Bush Kinder trolley prior to the next session to ensure it contains waterproofs and all supplies		✓	✓		
Ensuring their child's change of clothes includes items as set out in this policy			✓	✓	✓
Changing children into and out of waterproofs at the start and end of each Bush Kinder session as required			✓	✓	
Reading and familiarising themselves with this policy		✓	✓	✓	✓
Bringing any relevant issues to the attention of both Kinder staff and the committee				✓	
Applying sunscreen before sessions and ensuring sunscreen available for reapplication			✓	✓	



Reading and familiarising themselves with the Bush Kinder Risk Assessment Plan		✓	✓	✓	✓
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PROCEDURES

- Implementing and maintaining a Protective Clothing Policy which provides clarity to parents and staff as to the appropriate clothing children are required to wear to Bush Kinder in various weather conditions to ensure their safety and wellbeing (including a description of clothing which should not be worn).



BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION

BACKGROUND

Ferguson Park Preschool's Bush Kinder program is intended to operate across a broad spectrum of weather conditions, allowing children to experience nature and its elements across the 4 seasons. Whatever the weather, children are encouraged to take the lead in playing, exploring and learning in a bush or natural environment. For this reason, there are some particular clothing requirements in the Bush Kinder setting that may differ from requirements in a centre-based learning environment.

LEGISLATION AND STANDARDS

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Vic) (Part 2: Principles for Children)
- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Section 167
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: including Regulations 100, 101, 113, 114, 168(2)(a)(ii)
- National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety – Standard 2.3: Each child is protected – Element 2.3.2: Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury
- Mandatory – Quality Area 2
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

The most current amendments to listed legislation can be found at:

- Victorian Legislation – Victorian Law Today: www.legislation.vic.gov.au
- Commonwealth Legislation – Federal Register of Legislation: www.legislation.gov.au



DEFINITIONS

The terms defined in this section relate specifically to this policy. For regularly used terms e.g. Approved provider, Nominated supervisor, Notifiable complaints, Serious incidents, Duty of care, etc. refer to the Definitions file of the PolicyWorks catalogue.

Protective and appropriate clothing and footwear: It is important that Bush Kinder participants wear appropriate and protective clothing and footwear that:

Bush Kinder: Protective Clothing | Date Reviewed June 24

Ferguson Park Pre-School | Telephone 03 9718 1571
Email ferguson.park.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au



- allows children to move freely and undertake activities such as climbing, balancing, running and puddle jumping
- keeps children warm and dry in cold/wet weather. Ferguson Park Preschool provides the waterproof pants and jackets for Bush Kinder for each child
- 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 (provided by Ferguson Park Preschool) are required – this clothing should be light and loose fitting
- where possible, clothing is to be made from natural fabrics which allow the body to breathe and is comfortable against the skin
- in the case of footwear, keeps feet and toes covered and has a flexible and gripped sole to allow children to climb and balance on uneven surfaces.

The following table provides examples of recommended clothing, clothing that is not recommended and unacceptable clothing:

	Warm Weather	Cold Weather/Rain
Recommended clothing and footwear	Light loose fitting long sleeve tops and long pants (provided by Ferguson Park Preschool), broad brimmed or legionnaires hat, closed toe shoes	Waterproof coat (provided by Ferguson Park Preschool), long pants (provided by Ferguson Park Preschool), long sleeved top, beanie, waterproof gloves, thermals in very cold weather. *Waterproofs
Not recommended	Short sleeved tops, long skirts or dresses, shorts	Skirts, dresses, short sleeves, shorts (incompatible with waterproofs)
Unacceptable clothing and footwear	Open toes shoes, sandals, thongs, Crocs, singlet tops	Non-waterproof clothing, (waterproofs on top of non waterproof clothing is acceptable) Open toes shoes, sandals, thongs, Crocs, singlet tops

Change of Clothes: All children participating in Bush Kinder are required to bring a change of clothes and footwear as these may become wet and muddy. It is recommended that the spare clothing include:

- Spare top and bottoms of appropriate thickness/weight for the weather on the day
- Spare underpants (and singlet in winter if required)
- 2 pairs of socks
- 1 pair of gumboots (it is not recommended that gumboots are worn at all times due to the restriction of movement they impose)

The Bush Kinder on-site kit will contain some spare clothing





SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES

SOURCES

- Belonging, Being & Becoming V.2 – The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia: <https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-01/EYLF-2022-V2.0.pdf>
- Guide to the National Quality Standard, ACECQA: www.acecqa.gov.au
- Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework: www.education.vic.gov.au
- SunSmart: www.sunsmart.com.au

RELATED POLICIES

- Administration of First Aid Policy
- Child Safe Environment and Wellbeing
- Educational Program
- Excursions and Special Events
- Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Sun Protection
- Supervision of Children
- Bush Kinder: Dog Awareness
- Bush Kinder: Emergency Evacuation
- Bush Kinder: Extreme Weather
- Bush Kinder: Snake Awareness

EVALUATION



In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the approved provider will:

- notify all stakeholders affected by this policy at least 14 days before making any significant changes to this policy or its procedures, unless a lesser period is necessary due to risk (*Regulation 172 (2)*)
- where deemed appropriate, encourage feedback regarding this policy and its implementation with parents/guardians of children participating in the Bush Kinder program
- regularly review the policy and centre practices to ensure they are compliant with any new legislation, research or best practice procedures.



ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1: Waterproof Bush Kinder Scandinavian RainWear Catalogue

AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the approved provider of Ferguson Park Preschool on **05/06/2024**.

REVIEW DATE: 05/06/2025.



ATTACHMENT 1. WATERPROOF BUSH KINDER SCANDINAVIAN RAINWEAR CATALOGUE

MK Nordika Bush Kinder Rain Wear

- Elka Waterproof Rain Set Unique, light weight, PVC-free
- Fabric: Coating 100% Polyurethane; Shell 100% Polyester Adjustable and elasticised braces
- Reflective elasticised hems and foot straps Detachable hood
- Machine washable

[MKNordika_1.pdf](#)

