

Sun Safety Policy for Child Care Programs

Giggles N Grins Child Care Center and Preschool LLC is committed to protecting all children and staff from the harmful effects of the UV rays from the sun. Our sun safety policy is as follows:

1. We will educate children, staff, and families on sun protection.
 - Parents will receive our sun safety policy upon enrollment of their child(ren) in our program.
 - Information on sun safety practices will be posted and included in our newsletters.
 - Staff will incorporate sun safety awareness through activities, displays, and materials in their classrooms.
 - New staff will be orientated to this policy at the time of hire.
 - This policy will be reviewed by staff and parents on a yearly basis
 - Sun protection practices will be followed year-round.
2. We will follow procedures to reduce sun damage and heat illness
 - We will limit sun exposure between 11:00 am – 2:00 pm. We will schedule outdoor activities before and after whenever possible.
 - We will seek shade and provide shade for children and staff whenever possible.
 - Parents will be encouraged to provide wide-brimmed hats for their child(ren).
 - Parents will be encouraged to provide unbreakable sunglasses for their child(ren) that offer UVA and UVB protection.
 - Parents will be required to provide sunscreen with an SPF of 15- 50 for their child at the child care facility. Sunscreen needs to offer protection from UVA and UVB rays and be water resistant.
 - Sunscreen will be applied with signed written parental permission to all children 6 months and older prior to outdoor activities.
 - Signed written permission will be required if parents request that sunscreen is NOT applied to their child if over 6 months of age.
 - Infants under 6 months of age will be kept out of direct sunlight since they are not recommended to use sunscreen. Written orders and instructions from a health care provider are required if parents request sunscreen to be applied to their infant if under 6 months of age.
 - If a child arrives during outdoor play, parents will be asked if sunscreen has been applied. If not, sunscreen will be applied, and the child will be encouraged to play in a shaded location (if available) for 20 minutes to allow the sunscreen to become effective.
 - Water will be provided and offered frequently for children during outdoor activities.
 - Outdoor activities will not be allowed if the heat index is 89 degrees F or higher.
 - Staff and children will be watched carefully for heat related illness such as heat exhaustion and heat stroke.
3. We will follow the recommended guidelines for using sunscreen.
 - Gloves do not need to be worn to apply sunscreen. Staff do not need to wash their hands between applications to each child unless a child has an allergy to a sunscreen or if a child has open wounds, cuts, blisters or rashes on skin.
 - Sunscreen will be applied 20-30 minutes before outdoor activities and will be re-applied every 2 hours.
 - Sunscreen will be applied to all exposed skin, including the child's scalp if the child is bald and not wearing a hat. We will avoid getting sunscreen into the child's eyes or mouth.
 - Spray sunscreens are prohibited. Spray sunscreens are prohibited due to the possibility of inhaling the sunscreen or spraying the sunscreen into the eyes.
 - Children who apply sunscreen to themselves will be closely supervised to ensure all exposed areas are covered. Children are recommended to wash their hands after applying sunscreen (hands can become slippery or can be rubbed into eyes).
 - If sunscreen and insect repellent both need to be applied, the sunscreen will be applied first. Combination products with DEET and sunscreen are not prohibited. The sunscreen is not as effective when combined with DEET and sunscreen needs to be re-applied more often than the DEET can be.
 - Sunscreen will be stored out of the reach of children.
 - Expired sunscreen will not be used. Sunscreen should not be stored in extreme heat and should be discarded upon expiration or after 3 years if no date is printed on the product.
4. Staff will act as role models for children and demonstrate sun safety practices.
 - Staff will wear appropriate hats and clothing outdoors.
 - Staff will wear sunglasses that provide UVA and UVB protection.
 - Staff will wear sunscreen.