RATIONALE
Australia has a high incidence of skin cancer. Skin damage, is a result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Sun exposure in the first 10 years of life determines, to a substantial degree, the likelihood of skin cancer developing in later life.

AIMS
This policy aims to promote among children, parents and staff –
- Positive attitudes towards skin protection
- Lifestyle practices which can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and the number of related deaths.
- Personal responsibility for and decision making about skin protection.
- Awareness of the need for environmental changes to our Centre to reduce the level of sun exposure.
- In winter months educate children of the need to have 2-3 hours per week of sun exposure as it is necessary for healthy bodies to produce Vitamin D. In summer, a few minutes every day is more than enough to meet the daily vitamin D requirement.

IMPLEMENTATION
Our Policy encourages: **NO HAT, NO OUTSIDE PLAY**
The Centre provides a Legionnaires Hat for each Child when they begin Kindergarten. Staff members must wear a broad brimmed hat when they are outside. This is most important during the period 1st September until the 30th April when UV Index is above 3. Staff will monitor the UV levels on a regular basis to determine if the wearing of a hat needs to be enforced. The wearing of a hat will be enforced when the UV level is 3 or above on any given day.

SUNSCREEN
Children are encouraged to wear sunscreen when the UV level is 3 and above by applying it at home before they arrive at kindergarten. A bottle of sunscreen is provided at the sign in bench for families to access as needed. Sunscreen will be re-applied at lunchtime 15 -20 minutes before children go outside (consent form required to be signed on enrolment), during peak periods (1st September – 30th April) and at other times at staff discretion. Sunscreen will be applied every two hours if outdoors for an extended period.
A SPF 30 broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen will be provided by the centre for children, parents and staff. Children with specific allergies may be required to provide their own.

CLOTHING
Parents are encouraged to dress their children in appropriate clothing – Shirts with collars and covering as much skin as possible and longer style shorts/skirts/dresses. Children will be assisted in changing if their shoulders are not covered.

SHADDED AREAS
We have a well shaded outdoor environment at our centre. Staff discretion will be used when planning outside activities. Any activities will be rescheduled when UV index is extreme. The Governing Council will ensure there are sufficient sheltered areas providing shade in the outdoor learning environment.

WRAPAROUND SUNGLASSES
Staff are encouraged to wear EPF 10 or category 2,3 & 4 sunglasses when it is safe and practicable

INSIDE ONLY TIMES
At times of excessively high temperatures or unfavourable weather conditions children will be required to play inside for the duration of the session. This will be monitored and discussed by all staff before a decision is made.
All planned outside activities will be rescheduled when weather permits.

SUNSMART MESSAGE
• Staff role model appropriate SunSmart strategies in all activities
• Teaching about skin and ways to protect it from the sun will be incorporated into the Centre program.
• The Skin Protection Policy will be reinforced in a positive way through parent newsletters, notice boards and Governing Council Meetings.
• This policy will be displayed at the Centre at all times.

ON ENROLMENT
Parents will be:
• informed of our Policy.
• Shown a Child’s Legionnaires Hat
• Asked to apply sunscreen to their child prior to coming to kindy.
• Required to give consent for staff to apply sunscreen when required.
• Encouraged to practice SunSmart behaviour themselves.

The Risdon Park South Kindergarten Skin Protection Policy will be evaluated every 2 years.

Policy issues will be discussed at staff and Governing Council Meetings.

This Policy has been written following the Cancer Council Guidelines.

Endorsed by Governing Council 16th March 2015

Signed: ___________________________  Signed: ___________________________
       Governing Council Chairperson       Preschool Director

Review Dates:
March 2016  Governing Council Chairperson: __________ Date: / /2016  Director: __________
March 2017  Governing Council Chairperson: __________ Date: / /2017  Director: __________
March 2018  Governing Council Chairperson: __________ Date: / /2018  Director: __________
March 2019  Governing Council Chairperson: __________ Date: / /2019  Director __________