

Marble Hill Playcentres Sun Protection Policy 2019



Why is sun protection important?

The number of cases of malignant melanoma, the most serious form of skin cancer, is rising at an alarming rate. The good news is that the majority of these cases could be prevented. Most skin cancers are caused by too much Ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun. If we protect ourselves from overexposure then we can reduce our risk. This is particularly important for children and young people whose skin is more delicate and easily damaged.

(Sun Protection Policy Guidelines from Cancer Research UK)

Very sunny weather can also result in high temperatures which can affect children more quickly than adults. MHPC will have regard to the Public Health England Guidance for Early Years Professionals (factsheet) when planning for the summer season.

At Marble Hill Playcentres we acknowledge the importance of implementing a sun protection policy for staff, children, volunteers, and parents. We want everyone to enjoy the sun safely and all staff have a duty not only to safeguard our children from skin damage caused by harmful UV rays in sunlight but also to be aware themselves of what it means to work outside, unprotected from the sun.

Protection

- Staff will model sun-safe behaviour including wearing sunscreen, seeking shade and drinking water frequently as well as wearing hats and sunglasses where required.
- Parents/caregivers should always ensure that children are covered when playing in the sun by wearing suitable clothing (hats, covered shoulders clothing).
- Parents should apply high factor sun protection cream to their child before attending the Playcentres. (at least SPF 15)
- Sunscreen is available at MHPC for those who have forgotten or need to reapply.
- Shady areas to be created in the Playcentres, with equipment being set up.

Education

- Playworkers to remind children to stay safe from the effects of the sun.
- Staff must encourage parents to provide hats, clothes that protect, to use sunscreen and to provide refillable water bottles.
- MHPC will help educate parents by posting sun protection reminders on social media and write reminders on the noticeboards.

Collaboration

- Staff will work with parents, the Committee and the wider community to reinforce the importance of sun protection.
- During hot and sunny weather, staff will try to discourage children from playing in the direct sunshine all day.
- Indoor activities will be offered to children and the staff rotated so that no one is left outside in the heat for long periods.

- Water will be available for drinking and for play in the paddling pool and sprinkler.
- Ice pops and cold drinks will be for sale and extended where possible.
- Staff will encourage children to seek water and shade regularly during the hottest times (between 11.00am-15.00).
- Senior Playworkers will ensure that staff are given time to work in the shade out of the direct sun and to spend some time indoors.
- The Manager and Senior playworkers will collaborate with Committee members if temperatures are exceptionally high, to decide if the MHPC hours need to be shortened, or if in extreme temperatures require closure, for the protection of children and adults concerned.

The above policy was written by Julie Harness H&S Trustee on 26.7.2019 Claire Chapman MHPC Manager	Presented to the Committee on 12.8.2019 To be reviewed August 2020
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More information

PublicHealth England Guidance

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/428850/Looking_After_Children_Heat_PHE_AC_AB_Publications_MP_JRM_FINAL.PDF