Hot Weather Policy

This policy recognises that children are at greater risk of suffering from heat illness than adults and that a child's ability to respond to environmental heat and acclimatise to heat is due to physiological differences.

Context
Outdoor Area
The Modbury North Kindergarten has a large outdoor area with many big, mature trees, providing shade over most parts of the yard, as well as large shade structures over our sandpit and swing areas.

Veranda
A large veranda is attached to the building. It has shade cloth blinds that can be pulled down when required.

Air Conditioning
An evaporative air-conditioning unit has ducts to the main play rooms. The office, toilets and kitchen do not have direct air-conditioning ducts.
Two refrigerated units located at either end of the building are used on humid days, to supply cool air when the evaporative unit is not working effectively. Another small evaporative air conditioner is situated in the office.

Strategies for minimising heat related stress for children attending Modbury North Kindergarten on hot weather days (up to 36 degrees)
Activities
Activities conducted in periods of hot weather will be undertaken in shaded areas and will be reduced to the "less active" type. Water play activities will be offered to the children when practical.

Drinks
Staff will frequently remind children to drink water. There is access to drinking water at all times.
We encourage children to bring their own drink bottles filled with water only. These can be refilled at our water cooler.
Cups are provided for the children to use when they are inside.

Clothing
Parents are encouraged to dress children in sun safe clothing that minimises heat gain, in layers that can be easily removed either by the child or staff.

Surfaces
Prior to children engaging in outdoor play on hot days, staff will check the surface temperature of items such as swings, climbing equipment and slide in order to prevent burn injuries. This is to be checked by placing their hand on the surface for a slow count of five.

Hot Weather Policy
Strategies for minimising heat related stress for children attending Modbury North Kindergarten on extreme weather days (over 36 degrees or with high humidity levels)

On days of extreme weather staff will use their professional judgement and may implement the following:

Outdoor play may be:
- restricted to a shorter period of time
- offered in the morning only
- cancelled altogether

Parents may be:
- asked to use their judgement and consider the level of heat related risk posed to their child during transportation to Kindergarten.

Food
Parents are encouraged to put their child’s snacks and drink bottle inside the building. A container will be provided for these.