Clothing Policy

Children need protective, comfortable and appropriate clothing and footwear to explore their environment. Clothing needs to protect children from injury and sun exposure whilst promoting self-help abilities. Appropriate footwear will fit a child's foot correctly and ensure comfort. Educators will also dress to prevent injury and sun exposure and will be encouraged to dress in a professional and respectful manner, being positive role models for children.

National Quality Standard (NQS):

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety		
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected.
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.
Quality Area 5: Relationships with Children		
5.1	Relationships between educators and children	Respectful and equitable relationships are maintained with each child.
5.1.1	Positive educator to child interactions	Responsive and meaningful interactions build trusting relationships which engage and support each child to feel secure, confident and included.
5.1.2	Dignity and rights of the child	The dignity and rights of every child are maintained.

Education and Care Services National Regulations:

168	Education and care services must have policies and procedures
168(2)(ii)	Policies and procedures are required in relation to sun protection
170	Policies and procedures are to be followed

Purpose:

We aim to ensure the safety and comfort of all children by providing appropriate clothing guidelines for children, parents and staff at Birra-Li.

Children being clothed appropriately enables them to play without risk of sunburn and serious injury caused by inappropriate footwear or clothing. Children are more at ease, reassured, satisfied and less anxious when they are: dressed for warmth during winter or not over-dressed during summer, as well as wearing safe footwear when climbing outdoor play equipment or participating in physical activity.

Implementation:

Effective clothing strategies, including sun protection clothing, are important factors in ensuring a child feels safe and secure.

Scope:

This policy applies to children, families, staff, educators, management, Nominated Supervisor, students, volunteers and visitors of Birra-Li.

Nominated Supervisor/management will:

- Ensure our *Sun Safe Policy* is regularly reviewed.
- Ensure educators are provided with Personal Protective Equipment (e.g., gloves, apron etc.) as required to facilitate cleaning and protect their health and safety.
- Discuss with educators about suitable clothing and footwear expectations for the education and care work environment during induction.
- Provide information for families about suitable clothing and footwear for their child to wear at the Service. This information will also be shared with families using a variety of communication strategies including newsletters, websites, and posters.
- Ensure educators are aware and adhere to our *Sun Safe Policy.*
- Ensure a culturally inclusive environment by conveying respect and understanding of families' cultural traditions regarding clothing.

Educators will:

- Consult and communicate with families about the individual needs of children with respect to different values and beliefs associated with clothing and footwear.
- Monitor children's clothing and footwear to ensure compliance with our *Sun Safe Policy* and to support the safety, comfort and well-being of every child.
- Consider clothing and footwear needs associated with excursions or planned learning experiences and communicate clearly with families about the need for protective clothing requirements.
- Provide protective clothing, such as aprons, for messy play experiences and painting. Children will be encouraged by educators to wear protective clothing during messy and water play.
- Encourage children to remove shoes and heavy or excess layers of clothing during rest times to reflect the room temperature, as recommended practice by *Red Nose.*

- Take off children's jumpers and jackets with hoods during rest time to ensure children's safety.
- Encourage children to utilise their self-help skills where appropriate to put on and remove clothing and shoes to meet their needs. For younger children, educators will use observation and monitoring skills to ensure children's clothing and footwear is appropriate for the environment and weather conditions.
- Monitor the UV rating to ensure children are dressed appropriately for the weather and are adequately protected (e.g., long sleeve shirts, appropriate footwear).
- Discuss clothing with children (the need to wear hats for sun protection).
- Model appropriate clothing (wearing hats and sun safe clothing).
- Respect and appreciate all children and their individuality, whilst developing their understanding of safe clothing and footwear for play and the weather.
- Respect children's privacy and modesty when having children change their clothes or dressing themselves, ensuring that individual needs and preferences are understood and catered for.

Families will:

- Communicate with educators about their child's individual clothing needs- (e.g.: cultural diversity, disability, clothing sensitivity – labels or fabrics, fine motor skills).
- Provide spare clothing in children's bags to allow for dirty or soiled clothing and changing weather conditions.
- Dress children appropriately, including footwear and appropriate hat.
- Ensure their child is clothed in an appropriate manner which will allow them to explore and play freely and not restrict them using equipment while at play.
- Ensure clothing also allows easy access for toileting.
- Not dress their children in good/expensive clothing where there is a chance, they will get stained.
- Ensure children are appropriately protected from the sun - please refer to Sun Protection Policy for further directives on hats and clothing.
- Ensure children's clothing accommodates for the weather conditions. i.e. be loose and cool in summer to prevent overheating and warm enough for cold weather – including outdoor play.
- Ensure children have appropriate footwear that enables them to play comfortably and not cause safety concerns. i.e. thongs, clogs or backless shoes have a trip factor and do not allow children to use equipment safely.

- Ensure all clothing and belongings are clearly labelled with the child's name.

Special clothes/dress ups:

To facilitate pretend play and celebrate different cultural experiences, children may be invited to dress up according to a theme or particular cultural celebration.

Our educators will communicate with families to ensure all children have the opportunity to engage in these activities by wearing appropriate clothing.

When dressing their child in 'dress up' clothes, parents are asked to ensure their child's footwear is appropriate for play-based learning at the Service and ensure clothing is sun safe.

Sources:

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2025). *Guide to the National Quality Framework*

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2024). *Starting Blocks. What children wear to early childhood education and care.*

Cancer Council Australia

Education and Care Services National Regulations. (Amended 2023).

National Health and Medical Research Council. (2024). *Staying Healthy: preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services* (6th Ed.). NHMRC. Canberra.

Raising Children Network

Red Nose

Western Australian Legislation Education and Care Services National Regulations (WA) Act 2012

Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Cth).

Review:

Policy Reviewed	Modifications	Next Review Date
May 2026	Revised content within policy.	**November 2027**