**SUN SAFETY AND SMOG ALERTS**

**Guideline:**

Staff at John G. Althouse Before and After School Program will implement the following Sun Safety Guideline to protect themselves and the children at the facility from the harmful rays of the sun and exposure to smog.

**Rationale:**

One in seven children will develop skin cancer in their lifetime. One severe sunburn during childhood doubles the risk of developing skin cancer later in life (Canadian Dermatology Association).

**Procedure:**

1. Staff will review the Sun Safety Information Guide for Child Care and Ontario Early Years Centres and will role model sun safe behaviours.

2. Outdoor activities, whenever possible, will be held before 11 a.m. and after 4 p.m., especially from the beginning of April until the end of September.

3. Outdoor activities whenever possible will occur in areas shaded by trees, umbrellas, awnings or buildings.

4. Staff will look for opportunities to partner with the community to create shade by planting trees or using umbrellas or tents.

5. Parents of children attending our childcare facility will be given information on how to protect themselves and their children from harmful ultra \violet rays. See information for parents in **Sun Safety Information Guide for Child Care and Ontario Early Years Centre Staff**.

6. Parents will be asked to provide the following items for their children attending the child care facility:

a) A wide brimmed hat or a ball cap with a back flap.

b) Comfortable loose fitting long sleeved shirt and long pants (or at least knee length shorts) made from fabrics that are tightly woven.

c) Sunglasses with 100% UVA / UVB protection.

d) Sunscreen with a SPF of 15 or higher that offers UVA and UVB protection (which parents have already tested on the child’s skin for adverse reactions)

e) Items c) and d) will be requested for winter use.

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8. Staff will ensure that children who have been provided with the above items, use them in a consistent and proper manner. Sunscreen will be applied at least 30 minutes before going outside and hats and sunglasses will be worn during outside activities.

9. Staff will follow guidelines for use of sunscreen as outlined on page titled ‘Getting the Most From Sunscreen” in the Sun Safety Information Guide for Child Care and Early Years Centres.

10. Sun safe behaviours will be practiced year round.

11. If at any time the staff feel it is a safety issue for a child to play outdoors, the child will be required to play indoors in a supervised playroom.

12. Smog alerts produced by Environment Canada will monitored. On days when smog is considered high the children will play indoors. Smog Alerts will be documented in the daily communication logbook and will be posted for parents.