Introduction

Bega Valley Shire Council education and care services will support families to make decision about clothing for children that assists children to explore and play safely.

Strategies

Selection of suitable clothing

Families will consider selecting suitable clothing that is:

- Sunsafe: minimises exposure of the skin to the sun
- Play safe: enables people to move and play safely. This means well-fitted clothing, hats and shoes that are suitable for the weather. Clothing should also enable children to explore environments. This sometimes means getting messy.
- Sleep safe: maintain an even temperature and have no dangling cords.
- Self-help friendly: clothing that children can manage independently ensures children are increasingly able to access toilets, dress and undress themselves.

Families will provide:

- children under school age with a change of clothes that includes:
  - 1 – 2 named sets of socks, undies, shirts/ pants.
  - a named bag or backpack for your child’s belongings
  - a warm coat, jumper or windcheater (In winter or for sudden weather changes).

Educators, Staff, Students, Volunteers and others will:

- Recommend:
  - Clothing that has longer style sleeves and pants that cover as much of the skin as possible. It is important to choose clothing that assists toddlers and preschoolers to manage toilets and dress or undress themselves. Clothing may get paint or water on it as children play. If you are concerned about your child’s clothes getting messy choosing a smock or old clothing will help.
  - Clothing that protects face, neck and ears with hats that are broad brimmed without dangling cords or legionnaires style. Hoods with dangling cords are not recommended for safety reasons.
  - Well-fitted footwear that enables children to run and climb safety and minimises the risks of trips and falls. For these reasons thongs or similar footwear is not suitable for people in the centre.
- Model good choices of clothing, and follow Bega Valley Shire Council Sunsafe clothing policy
- Maintain high standards of hygiene in dressing and undressing children, or in assisting children to dress/undress themselves
- Respect each child’s need and right for privacy and personal safety
- Follow principles of child protection when children are dressing/undressing.

**Evaluation**

Children and adults wear suitable clothing and footwear while in the education and care service.

**References**

- Bega Valley Shire Council Children’s Services, Child protection policy, Operational draft, June 2012
- Bega Valley Shire Council Children’s Services, Parent Information Handbooks, 2012
- Bega Valley Shire Council Children’s Services, Sunsafe policy, Operational draft, June 2012