Para Hills West Preschool
Clothing Guidelines

Clothing and dressing play important roles in children’s learning and development. The clothing children wear can have a direct impact on the quality of their experiences as clothes can affect their health, safety, comfort, play and learning.

The practical 'hands-on' nature of children’s learning and interactions means that children will touch, move, create, discover, climb, experiment, mould, shape and explore a range of materials and resources and therefore they are likely to get dirty. It is important for children to use all of their senses to explore the natural and made world. We encourage children to wear smocks when painting and when working with gloop, clay, water etc and children are reminded to roll up their sleeves to minimise the impact of play on clothing. We encourage children to develop independence in washing their hands following 'messy play'.

We encourage parents not to send children in their best clothes and promote allowing children to wear clothing that supports practical, creative and physical play and allows children to make spills, drips and mistakes without fear or concern for their clothing.

Learning in the outdoor area is an important and integral part of our program. Children will be offered opportunities to play, learn and interact outdoors during each session when it is safe to do so (not too hot or dangerous due to slip, trip and other hazards). It is requested that children wear or are sent to the preschool with clothing suitable for outdoor play and learning, including jackets, jumpers, raincoats or boots for cold or wet weather when appropriate.

'There is no such thing as the wrong weather for children to play BUT there is the wrong clothing for the weather'

All children are required to bring a named hat (either a Legionnaire or wide brimmed style) everyday during Terms 1 and 4 and at other times when UV levels are high to protect their face neck and ears from the harmful effects of the sun. Legionnaire hats with the preschool logo are available for purchase from the preschool. Shoulders, back and chests are to be covered at all times. Thin shoulder straps are not
recommended. T-shirts with the preschool logo (long and short sleeved) are available for purchase from the preschool.

**Footwear:** safe, comfortable shoes/ sandals which provide support and protection for feet are recommended, however thongs and high heels are not permitted as they are not safe for climbing and active play.

**Clothing accessories:** dress up capes, scarves, necklaces can present strangulation or tripping hazards and are not permitted.

**Cultural diversity:** staff will be sensitive to and support individual families clothing and accessory preferences for their children based on their cultural and or religious beliefs.

**Spare Clothing:** All children should be sent to the preschool with a set of spare clothing in case the child needs to be changed due to getting wet, dirty, a toileting issue or other reason. The preschool does have a small collection of spare clothes if required. Parents are asked that preschool clothing is washed and returned top the preschool promptly in case it is needed on another occasion. You will be provided with a note explaining when, why and by whom your child was changed should they require their clothing to be changed at the preschool.

**Children’s Personal Belongings**

Please write your child’s name on the inside of their shoes /sandals. This will make matching the right feet to the right shoes much easier!

Please clearly write your child’s names on all their belongings.

Please check the Lost Property Box for any items which may belong to your child. All remaining items will be donated to charity at the end of the year.