



Prevention Programs

Preschool Sun Safety Certification

“Parents and caregivers can be the best teachers by making sun protection a ritual, much like brushing teeth or handwashing. Including sun safety education in the health curriculum of all preschools will help reduce skin cancer risks.”

The majority of adult skin cancers can be prevented by adequate skin protection during childhood. But kids also need fresh air, sunshine, and exercise. Parents, teachers, and caregivers can all help encourage kids to have fun outdoors, be active, and stay sun safe all year round.

The BC Cancer Agency Prevention Programs recognizes those preschool and daycare facilities in the province that have instituted measures to help protect children from harmful exposure to the sun. While a darker skin colour offers more UV protection than lighter skin, it is still important for **all** children to practice sun safety.

As a key element of our Sun Safe Program, we issue ‘Sun Safe Facility’ certificates to daycares and preschools that meet essential sun safety requirements. These include:

- Limiting the amount of time children spend outside in summer, or having them play in the shade between 11 am and 3 pm.
- Encouraging or mandating the use of headwear, such as wide-brimmed hats, from late spring to early fall, and recommending UV covers for strollers.
- Displaying sun safety information for parents.



- In summer—and even winter—months, encouraging the use of sunscreen on field trips or other major outdoor activity.
- Providing shade, whether from trees or shade structures such as tents, awnings, umbrellas, or shade sails.

In addition to the certificates, the Prevention Programs also provides the following materials to certified facilities:

- Colouring sheets, ‘Slip, Slap, Slop’ stickers, and ‘Be Sun Safe’ awareness posters.
- Brochures on infant and preschool sun safety.
- A musical CD containing two entertaining and informative songs by the children’s vocalist and songwriter Norman Foote.

These materials, which are also available on our website, have been designed to help young children, parents, and caregivers understand the importance of sun protection and the need for young children to receive adequate amounts of Vitamin D.

The Preschool ‘Be Sun Safe’ certification is renewed on a regular basis through a province-wide mailout. The Prevention Programs are also continually seeking to educate and certify new daycares and preschools.