

The warmer days are here! It's a time of the year that we spend more time outdoors doing the activities we enjoy. While it means "fun in the sun", it is important you take measures to avoid overexposure to the sun. Overexposure to the sun can lead to sunburns, premature aging of the skin, wrinkling, and skin cancer.

- **Seek shade.** UV rays are strongest and most harmful during midday, so it's best to plan indoor activities then. If this is not possible, seek shade under a tree, an umbrella, or a pop-up tent. Use these options to prevent sunburn, not to seek relief after it's happened.
- **Cover up.** When possible, long-sleeved shirts and long pants and skirts can provide protection from UV rays. Clothes made from tightly woven fabric offer the best protection. A wet T-shirt offers much less UV protection than a dry one, and darker colors may offer more protection than lighter colors. Some clothing certified under international standards comes with information on its ultraviolet protection factor.
- **Get a hat.** Hats that shade the face, scalp, ears, and neck are easy to use and give great protection. Baseball caps are popular among kids, but they don't protect their ears and neck. If your child chooses a cap, be sure to protect exposed areas with sunscreen.
- **Wear sunglasses.** They protect your child's eyes from UV rays, which can lead to cataracts later in life. Look for sunglasses that wrap around and block as close to 100% of both UVA and UVB rays as possible.
- **Apply sunscreen.** Use sunscreen with at least SPF 15 and UVA and UVB protection every time your child goes outside. For the best protection, apply sunscreen generously 30 minutes before going outdoors. Don't forget to protect ears, noses, lips, and the tops of feet.

For additional information, please read the attached brochure from the Environmental Protection Agency and visit the following websites:

<http://www.melanomafoundation.org/prevention/sun.htm>

http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/basic_info/sun-safety.htm