

Child Care Warm Weather Guide

All children benefit from the fresh air and sunshine they get during daily outdoor play. During warm weather months, a child care provider should monitor weather conditions and outdoor temperatures to determine:

- The kind of clothing children need to wear and if sunscreen is needed.
- The length of outdoor time that is appropriate for conditions and the child's age
- If stormy weather will pose a safety threat during the day

Warm Weather Heat Index

		RELATIVE HUMIDITY by PERCENT															
		15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90
AIR TEMPERATURE (°F)	105	102	109	109	113	118	123	129	135	142	149						
	100	97	99	101	104	107	110	115	120	126	132	138	144				
	95	91	93	94	96	98	101	104	107	110	114	119	124	130	136		
	90	86	87	88	90	91	93	95	96	98	100	102	108	109	113	117	122
	85	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	93	95	97	99	102
	80	76	77	77	78	79	79	80	81	81	82	83	85	86	86	87	88
	75	71	72	72	73	73	74	74	75	75	76	76	77	77	78	78	79

Outdoor play is recommended when temperature/heat index is between 71 and 90 degrees F.

Outdoor play is not recommended when temperature/heat index is 90 degrees F or above

Warm Weather Tips

- Offer water often during time outdoors.
- Choose shaded play areas when possible. Check the temperature of the equipment.
- Children should dress in lightweight, cotton fabrics and wear a hat to protect them from the sun
- Children should wear rubber soled and closed toe shoes for active play.
- Necklaces, capes, hooded clothing with strings are not recommended due to risk of strangulation.
- Always have a first aid kit readily accessible.
- Apply sunscreen every 2 hours. Look for sunscreen with UVB and UVA ray protection and SPF of 15 or more.
- Mildly ill children, who are active, may also play outdoors. If children are too sick to play outdoors, they are probably too sick to remain in child care.
- Older children can tolerate longer periods outdoors but should be monitored for heat and sunscreen protection.
- Infants and toddlers are unable to tell the care provider when they are too hot, so it's best to schedule shorter periods of outdoor play for this age group and monitor them closely.

• Source used: "Child Care Weather Watch" produced by the Iowa Department of Public Health, Healthy Child Care Iowa. Wind-Chill and Heat Index information is from the National Weather Service.

• Revised 7/23

Warm Weather Forecasting Terms

Heat Index Warning - How hot it feels to the body when the air temperature and relative humidity are combined.

Relative Humidity - The percent of moisture in the air.

Temperature - The temperature of the air in degrees Fahrenheit.

Wind - The speed of the wind in miles per hour.

Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado Watch - Conditions are favorable for the development of these storms

Severe Thunderstorm Warning - When a thunderstorm produces hail 3/4 of an inch or larger in diameter and/or winds equal or exceed 58 mph.

Tornado Warning - Tornado is indicated by radar or sighted by storm spotters.

Flash Flood Watch/ Warning - Very heavy rain that falls in a short time period can lead to flash flooding. A watch means there is possibility. A warning means that a flash flood is imminent or occurring.