


# NOTTINGHAM SUPPORT GROUP FOR CARERS OF CHILDREN WITH ECZEMA

In association with : Nottingham University Hospitals   
NHS Trust

Written by Professor Hywel Williams, Dr Ruth Murphy, Dr Jane Ravenscroft, Nurse Consultant Sandra Lawton and parents on behalf of the Nottingham Support Group for Carers of Children with Eczema.

## Atopic Eczema: Sun, Holidays and Fun - Information for Parents

### Will my child's eczema get better or worse on holiday?

Eczema affects children in different ways, so it is hard to predict how your child's eczema will behave on holiday. Generally, most children improve on holiday as everyone is relaxed and having fun. Some children find that heat can make their eczema worse, especially when they sweat a lot. Others find that a bit of gentle sun and sea clears their eczema completely for a while. Everyone is different.

### Things to think about when taking your child on holiday

As eczema is a dry itchy skin condition, there are many things that may irritate the skin. i.e. wool, some foods, sand, wind, pollen, water and extremes or changes in temperature. A child with a lot of eczema covering most of their body may not be able to sweat as effectively as other children, or they may find that the sweat makes them itch. Dry heat and low humidity can cause problems for children with eczema, as do sudden changes in temperature and humidity. So, to make sure things go smoothly for your holidays, remember to think about the following:

**Supplies** - Remember to order enough supplies for all your child's treatment well in advance. Even if your child's eczema is under control, remember to take your eczema treatment kit with you.

**Emollients** – In hotter weather, you may find a less greasy cream will be better during the day as some children find a very thick greasy emollient makes them hot and itchy.

**Swimming** – Water can irritate eczema skin. Even so, many parents find that the seawater actually helps their child's eczema. Salt water may have a mild antiseptic action. If your child goes swimming, please put on their emollient before swimming, and put on more emollient when they shower after swimming.

**Sunscreens** – Finding a suitable sunscreen or sun block for your child is very much trial and error. What suits one child may not suit another. Try to find one which suits all the family. Using a sunscreen of SPF 25 is recommended for children and who do not have dark skin. When putting on your sun protection cream, remember to put on your child's emollient and steroids first then put the sun protection cream on 30 minutes later. Also, remember to put more sun protection cream on regularly throughout the day and especially after swimming.

**Sun Safety** – It is important that all the family take extra care in the sun and avoid burning.  
Remember:

**Seek the shade** between 11am to 3pm

**Hats on**

**Apply SPF 15**


**Don't burn**

**Exercise Care**

website - [www.nottinghameczema.org.uk](http://www.nottinghameczema.org.uk)

email - [enquiry@nottinghameczema.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@nottinghameczema.org.uk)

# NOTTINGHAM SUPPORT GROUP FOR CARERS OF CHILDREN WITH ECZEMA

In association with : Nottingham University Hospitals   
NHS Trust

Written by Professor Hywel Williams, Dr Ruth Murphy, Dr Jane Ravenscroft, Nurse Consultant Sandra Lawton and parents on behalf of the Nottingham Support Group for Carers of Children with Eczema.

**Cool Cotton Clothing** – Cotton clothing is ideal for children with eczema and does offer some protection from the sun.

For further advice please contact  
Nurse Consultant Dermatology Sandra Lawton  
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust  
Queen's Medical Centre  
Clifton Boulevard  
Nottingham  
NG7 2UH

Email : [pils@nottinghameczema.org.uk](mailto:pils@nottinghameczema.org.uk)  
Website : [www.nottinghameczema.org.uk](http://www.nottinghameczema.org.uk)

For advice on support issues please contact the NSGCCE via the website [www.nottinghameczema.org.uk](http://www.nottinghameczema.org.uk) and click on the contact icon



at the top of most pages or email us at

[enquiry@nottinghameczema.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@nottinghameczema.org.uk)

website - [www.nottinghameczema.org.uk](http://www.nottinghameczema.org.uk)

email - [enquiry@nottinghameczema.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@nottinghameczema.org.uk)