



Water Safety Policy

Aim:

To ensure the safety and supervision of children in and around water. This relates to water play, excursions, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in our early childhood environment.

Children's safety and wellbeing will be protected in and around water through supervision and education. Clean, hygienic water for play and for drinking will always be made available.

"Drowning is the number one cause of death in children under 5. Drowning can occur quickly and quietly without any warning noises..... Children can drown in shallow water: swimming pools, spas, bath tubs, rivers, creeks and oceans, dams and lakes. Children can also drown in less obvious locations: nappy buckets, pet water bowls, toilets, water tanks, water features, fish ponds." (kidsafensw.org).

Implementation:

The Nominated Supervisor will:

1. Provide guidance and education to educators, staff and families on the importance of children's safety in and around water.
2. Ensure work, health and safety practices incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and play.
3. Ensure that risk assessments are carried out and referred to concerning any water related experiences at the Centre and on excursions.

Educators and staff will:

1. Refer to any relevant risk assessment when planning for, setting up and conducting any water related experience. Be aware of the supervision requirements for water play and ensure that these are met.
2. Ensure water troughs/wading pools or containers for water play are filled to a safe level. This should not exceed 200mm or 20cm in depth These activities will be supervised at all times and containers or troughs/wading pools will be emptied immediately onto garden areas after use to ensure that no water is left unsupervised at any time. Children will be discouraged from drinking from these water activities.
3. Teach children about staying safe in and around water as part of the educational programme throughout the year. Use water play experiences as an opportunity to do this.
4. Empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use. No buckets are left unsupervised in play areas or accessible to children.



5. When filling any water vessel with water ensure that this area is well supervised while children are at play and that all water is drained out when the learning experience is finished.
6. Provide clean drinking water at all times. This water will be supervised to ensure that it is safe and hygienic for consuming. Water containers will be securely sealed. At the end of each day, any water container will be emptied and cleaned thoroughly.
7. When bathing a child, the water temperature will not exceed a temperature of 38 C.
8. If water from heavy rain pools in any space, a pump will be used to drain the water away. Alternatively the pooled water will be supervised at all times.

Operational Safety:

1. Hot water accessible to children will be maintained at the temperature of 43.5 C. Thermostatic valves to be tested and serviced annually by a plumber.
2. Grey water systems or water tanks will be labelled with a sign that says 'Do Not Drink'. Children will be supervised in this area to ensure they are not accessing this water for drinking. Educators will discuss with the children that this water is for the purpose of play and irrigation and not safe for consumption.
3. A risk assessment will be conducted prior to any excursion taking place. Particular attention will be focused upon water safety where the excursion is near a body of water.
4. Adults carrying and consuming hot drinks will do so with the safety of children being paramount. Staff/Adults will not carry or consume hot drinks near children and will store them well away from children's reach.
5. Water for pets must be changed regularly and only be accessible to children when adults are present.

Legislative Requirements: Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: 168

Links to National Quality Standard:- : 2.2.1;3.1.1;

Sources: Community Childcare Co-operative (NSW)

National Health and Medical

Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations (www.deewr.gov.au)

Early Childhood Australia (www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au)

Useful Links

<http://www.kidsafensw.org/water-safety/>

<https://www.royallifesaving.com.au/facts-and-figures/key-facts>

<https://www.royallifesaving.com.au/programs/keep-watch-toddler-drowning-prevention-program>