

WATER SAFETY POLICY

Rationale and Policy Considerations

The safety and supervision of children is paramount when in or around water. This relates to water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the Service environment. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences.

Legislation and Government Requirements

- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 (SA)
- Education and Care Services National Regulations
- Privacy Act (1988) Commonwealth

National Quality Framework

Education and Care Services National Regulations 101, 115, 122, 126, 168,

National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education Elements 2.1.2, 2.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.2

Policy Statement

To ensure the safety and supervision of children in and around water. This includes water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the Service environment.

Strategies for Policy implementation

MANAGEMENT/NOMINATED SUPERVISOR/ RESPONSIBLE PERSON WILL:

- complete risk assessments that identify and assess risks associated with any water hazards and water-based activities
- ensure water hazards and water play are always highly supervised including:
 - direct and constant monitoring of children
 - careful and intentional positioning of educators
 - scanning and moving around the environment
 - observing play and anticipating behaviour
 - ensuring higher adult to child ratios
- provide direction and education to educators, staff and families on the importance of children's safety and supervision in and around water.
- ensure health and safety practices incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and water play.
- ensure at least one Educator who holds a current approved first aid qualification is in attendance at all times
- ensure water hazards and water play are always highly supervised
- ensure hot water is inaccessible to children.

EDUCATORS WILL:

- supervise children near water at all times
- never leave children alone near any water
- ensure children in a bath (if required) are directly supervised at all times
- utilise water activities in appropriate weather as part of the planned program
- allow the children the opportunity to experiment with water, sand, and mixing materials
- monitor all taps on the premises that children have access to and ensure they are turned off securely when not in use
- safely cover or make inaccessible to children all water containers, e.g. nappy buckets.
- empty wading pools immediately after every use and store to prevent the collection of water, e.g. upright

- check for and empty any water that has collected in holes or containers after rainfall or watering gardens
- ensure water troughs are not used without a stand to keep it off the ground
- ensure children remain standing on the ground whilst using the water trough
- ensure buckets of water for soaking toys or clothing are inaccessible to children
- ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level and emptied into the garden areas after **each** use
- children will be discouraged from drinking from these water activities
- teach children about staying safe in and around water

OPERATIONAL SAFETY

- Educators will discuss with the children the use of water tank water and how it differs from drinking water.
- Water for pets at the Service must be changed daily and only be accessible to children when educators are present.

Important: Parents will be notified as soon as practicable but within 24 hours if their child is involved in an incident/accident at the Service or while under Service care. Details of the incident/accident will be recorded on an Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record.

Important: If the incident/accident, situation or event presents imminent or severe risk to the health, safety and wellbeing of the child or if an ambulance was called in response to the emergency (not as a precaution) the regulatory authority will be notified within 24 hours.

Links to other Policies

Educational Program Policy
 Health and Safety Policy
 Physical Environment Policy
 Supervision Policy

Sourced from

Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).
 Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).
 Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2018).
[Education and Care Services National Regulations](#). (2011)
 Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations (2017).
 Guide to the National Quality Standard. (2017).
 National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC): www.nhmrc.gov.au
 Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).

Ratified by Management Committee September 2020
Review October 2023