

WATER SAFETY PROCEDURE

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

Background

The safety and supervision of children in and around water is of the highest priority. This relates to water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the preschool environment. Water is an important component of our curriculum as it provides opportunities for sensory play, numeracy, engineering, science and problem solving.

A water hazard is anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth. Water hazards that may be present at the kindergarten include:

- Water course
- Mud Kitchen
- Potions making area
- Water trough, containers and buckets used for play
- Pooling water
- Bathroom hand washing trough

Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences.

Principles

This policy has been developed to:

- Ensure that the centre will prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to water hazards. Children's safety and wellbeing will be protected in and around water through supervision and prevention; and be promoted through the availability of clean, hygienic water for play and drinking.

Scope

This policy and procedure applies to all staff, and children for centre events both on and off site.

Context

This policy relates to the following National Law and Regulations:

- Education and Care Services National Regulations (R 168 (2) (a) (iii)).

National Quality Standards

Quality Area 2: Children's health and safety

PROCEDURE

To prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to watercourse, water troughs and other water hazards the Nominated Supervisor will:

- Provide guidance and education to educators, staff and families on the importance of children's safety in and around water.
- Ensure work, health and safety practices incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and play.

To prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to watercourse, water troughs and other water hazards, the staff will:

Water based activities and water safety are to be managed through risk assessments. Risk assessments should include matters such as:

1. Active supervision – Children must be actively supervised at all times when there is a risk of access to any water hazard.
Active supervision includes:
 - Direct and constant monitoring of children – within 1 – 2 metres
 - Careful intentional positioning
 - Scanning and moving around the area
 - Listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise
 - Observing play and anticipating behaviour

2. Eliminating hazards – water must be emptied immediately after use and stored in a manner that prevents the vessel filling with water when not in use. All aspects of the environment must be designed to ensure adequate drainage of water to avoid pooling. Check garden after watering or rain and empty water that has collected in holes or containers.

3. Restricting access where necessary.
 - Teach children about staying safe in and around water
 - Provide clean drinking water at all times via dispenser container in the main room
 - Ensure hot water accessible to children will be maintained at the temperature of 46 degrees C (maximum). Thermostatic valves to be tested and serviced annually by a plumber.
 - Ensure the rainwater tank (used in sandpit and mud play area) is labelled with “do not drink” signage. Supervise children to ensure grey water is not used for drinking. Explain to children the reasons why grey water should not be drunk and uses for grey water (eg. Water play and watering gardens)
 - Ensure adults consume hot drinks in an approved lidded mug in areas away from children, office and kitchen
 - Conduct a risk assessment prior to any excursion taking place. Particular attention will be focussed upon water safety where the excursion is near a body of water.
 - Ensure that at all times, when children are present, there must be at least one staff member with a current approved first aid qualification, on the premises. It is best practice for all staff to hold current approved First Aid Certificates.

Version #	Approval Date	Approved By	Review Cycle	Review Date
1.0	August 2020	Governing Council	2 years	August 2022
2.0	September 2021	Governing Council	2 years	September 2023
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