



Local Water Safety Procedure

National Quality Standards and Regulations

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety
Regulation 168 (2) (a) (iii)

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 kindergarten 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 kindergarten include:

- Water course
- Mud kitchen
- Sandpit
- Potion making experiences
- Water trough, containers and buckets used for water play
- Pooling water

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

Principles

This policy has been developed to:

- Ensure that the center 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 procedure applies to all staff and children for center events both on and off site

WATER SAFETY

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:

Manage water based experiences and water safety through risk assessments. Risk assessments should include matter such as:

- 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 meters
 - Careful and intentional positioning
 - Scanning and moving around the area
 - Listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise
 - Observing play and anticipating behavior

- 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.

- Restricting access where necessary
 - Teach children about staying safe in and around water
 - Provide clean drinking water at all times via filtered water tap in the kitchen
 - Ensure hot water accessible to children will be maintained at the temperature of 46°C (maximum). Thermostatic valves to be tested and serviced annually by a plumber.
 - Ensure the rainwater tank (used in the mud kitchen) 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 (water play and watering gardens)
 - Ensure adults consume hot drinks in a safe manner
 - Conduct a risk assessment prior to any excursion taking place. Particular attention will be focused 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.

Endorsed by Governing Council:	May 2022
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