

Water Safety

Policy introduction

The safety and supervision of children 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 program environment. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences.

Our policy in action

Children's safety and well-being will:

- Be protected in and around water through supervision and prevention
- Be promoted through the availability of clean, hygienic water for play and for drinking

Statutory legislation and considerations

- Education and Care Services National Law 2010
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

Strategies for policy implementation

Our 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
- Ensure a staff child ratio of one staff member to five children on excursions near water or to the swimming pool
- Ensure that swimming pool excursion records identify each child's level of swimming ability

Our educators and staff will:

- Ensure water troughs or containers for water are filled to a safe level. These activities will be supervised at all times and containers or troughs will be emptied onto garden areas immediately after use. Children will be discouraged from drinking from these water activities
- Teach children about staying safe around water
- Empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use. No buckets will be left in play areas or accessible to children
- 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, the water container will be emptied and cleaned thoroughly
- Be diligent in their supervision of children when at the swimming pool or on any excursion near water
- Be aware of each child's swimming ability when on an excursion a to the swimming pool

Operational Safety

- Hot water accessible to children will be maintained at the temperature of 43.5°C. Thermostatic valves will be tested and serviced annually by a plumber
- 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
- Adults may carry and consume hot drinks only in a thermal cup or mug with a lock down lid that prevents spilling
- Water for pets must be changed regularly and only be accessible to children when an adult is present

Evaluation

- Supervision and access to water within the program and on an excursion is managed effectively by staff to ensure children remain safe and healthy

Procedures

Weldon procedures that support the implementation of this policy:

- Excursion plans
- Individual child assessments
- Program plans
- Supervision

Links to other policies

- Family Communication and Participation
- Interactions with Children
- Record Keeping

National Quality Framework

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations: 168

National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care and School Age Care

Standard: 2.1 Element, 2.1.3, Standard: 2.2 Element 2.2.1 and 2.2.2

Sources

- Community Child Care NSW NQF in a Box – policies
- National Health and Medical Research Council
- NSW Ministry of Health
- Pool and Water Safety Kids Safe