



Banksia Park Kindergarten

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

Water Safety Procedure

Reviewed May 2022

Rationale

Children enjoy exploring their learning environments, including playing in/with/around water play, however they generally have little understanding of the danger that it can pose.

This procedure provides instructions in relation to managing water safety, including during water-based activities, based on a completed risk assessment. This procedure applies to all staff and volunteers at this site.

Water Hazards

A water hazard is defined as anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth. Water hazards in a child's learning environment can include:

- > sinks, basins, fish tanks, fishbowls, baths
- > swimming pools, portable pools, spas
- > water courses, ponds, sandpits, clam shells
- > water troughs, containers and buckets used for play, animal drinking containers
- > pooling water

Managing Water Hazards

Staff regularly complete risk assessments to identify and assess risks associated with any water hazards and water-based activities. These risk assessments must address:

1. **Active supervision** – children are 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 arm's length (within 1 to 2 metres)
 - > careful and intentional positioning
 - > scanning and moving around the environment
 - > listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise
 - > observing play and anticipating behaviour
 - > higher adult to child ratios
2. **Eliminating hazards** – water will 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 are designed to ensure adequate drainage of water to avoid pooling.
3. **Restricting access** – compliant fencing/barriers.

Water Safety During Excursions

Water safety and potential water hazards are considered when undertaking risk assessments for excursions, including routine excursions.

Supporting Information

- > National Quality Standard and Regulations - National Quality Standard 2.3, Regulation 168 (2) (a) (iii)
- > Water Safety for Preschools (DfE) – Preschool Water Safety Procedure
- > Kidsafe - Water Safety in Education and Care Settings (Government of SA)
- > Camps and excursions guidelines for schools and preschools (DfE)
- > Royal Life Saving Protection Australia - Fact Sheets

Approved and Checked

Governing Council Approval: May 2022

Preschool Director: Meg Green

Governing Council Chairperson: Jane Mangos

Next Review Date: 2025