

Balharrie Memorial Children's Centre Water Safety Procedure



This procedure has been developed to support staff and children to provide and participate safely in water play experiences.

Water Hazards:

A water hazard is anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth. There are a number of water hazards in our children's learning environments, including:

- Sinks, basins, fish tanks/bowls, baths
- Water courses, ponds, sandpits, clam shells
- Water troughs, containers and buckets used for play

Managing water hazards:

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 arm's length (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.

Portable Pools:

Clam shells or paddling pools may be used at Balharrie only when:

- Educators supervise children playing in pool at arms length
- Water is emptied from pool directly after play experience
- Water is emptied from pool if educator needs to move away to another area

Water Courses:

- Our water course is designed so that the depth of water, at any point, is less than 300mm.
- The water course is directed into the sandpit ensuring suitable drainage systems

Water troughs, buckets and other water receptacles:

- Water receptacles must be emptied immediately after use and stored upside down and out of children's reach.
- Access to laundry and kitchen areas must be restricted when unattended by adults.