

Brentwood Drive Kindergarten

Water Safety Procedure

National Quality Standard 2.2 Education and Care Services National Regulations R 168

Brentwood Drive Kindergarten will follow directions set by the Department for Education; Preschool water safety procedure and the Kidsafe; Water Safety in Education and Care Settings (see attached).

Water hazards at Brentwood Drive Kindergarten:

- Pooling water from creek systems into mud kitchen and/or sandpit and path in winter.
- Water trough.
- Boat canal system.
- Tub of rain water used for filling watering cans to water vegetable gardens and plants.
- Bucket of water used next to sandpit/mud kitchen for use in these specific areas.
- Toilets and hand basins in children's bathroom.
- Kitchen sink.

Managing water hazards at Brentwood Drive Kindergarten:

- Children will always be supervised in both the outdoor and indoor environments. Particular attention will be placed on areas where there is water usage in progress.
- Tap tops to control the turning on and off of water will be used by the educators only and stored high near each tap in use (creek system- tap top located on hook stuck to rainwater tank. Sandpit separate tap - tap top hanging on pole directly above tap. Rain water tap or vegetable garden mains - tap top hanging on hook next to orchard gate).
- Mud kitchen area will have soil topped up or moved back into pooling area once a term or as needed.
- Sandpit sand will be raked back into pooling area once a term or as needed.
- Risk assessments will be completed before any excursion. A specific section will address any water hazards.
- No plugs are used at the children's hand basins. Educators will monitor the condition of the bathroom and ensure that no paper towel has been placed in sinks.
- Kitchen sink will be emptied after each use.





Water Safety in Education and Care Settings

During 2016-17, 76% of toddler (children aged 0-4 years) drownings were from falls into water

Childhood drowning - the issue

- The most common factor for childhood drowning is lack of active supervision
- A child can drown silently in as little as 5cm of water, in less than 20 seconds
- For every 1 child who drowns, 10 others are rescued from a near drowning incident.

Why young children are most at risk of drowning

- They love to play with water and are naturally drawn to it
- They do not understand the danger
- They are top heavy (their head is large in comparison to their body) and they have a tendency to fall.

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 children's learning environments, including:

- Sinks, basins, fish tanks/bowls, 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

Each site must have a policy in place that outlines how they will manage water safety, including during waterbased activities based on a completed risk assessment. Risk assessments are required to be completed that identify and assess risks associated with any water hazards and water-based activities. 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 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
 - Higher adult/child ratios, noting family day care standards apply for swimming activities.
- 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.
- 3. Restricting access compliant fencing or barrier.

Swimming pools, portable pools and spas

Swimming pools, portable pools and spas must be fully fenced with a self-closing, self-latching gate compliant with AS 1926.1 Swimming Pool Safety Part 1 – Safety barriers for swimming pools.

The fence must be an effective barrier to young children and must:

- be permanent
- not provide access for young children to crawl under or to climb over by using foot and hand holds
- be a minimum of 1.2 metres high
- be at least 1.8 metres high, if used as a boundary fence.

Gates to the pool area must:

- Only swing outward from the pool area
- Be fitted with a child proof self-latching device that is out of reach of small children (generally 1.5 metres above ground level)
- Be self-closing and latching from any position
- Never be propped open or prevented from latching.

It is important that regular checks are made to the area surrounding the pool to ensure that:

- the fence is in good repair and there are no loose panels or gaps
- there are no items around the perimeter of the fence that effectively reduces the fence height and enables children to climb onto the fence
- the gate self closes and latches automatically from any position.

It is necessary to contact your local council about obtaining approval for the pool and ensuring the safety features are in place. FDC educators must obtain a pool safety compliance certificate from an independent certifier every two years.

What is a portable pool?

Portable swimming pools take several forms and include inflatable pools, pools incorporating a canvas or flexible plastic liner attached to a frame, and hard plastic pools such as wading pools. Depths vary from less than 150mm to over one metre. Portable pools may also be advertised as wading pools, paddling pools, inflatable pools and kiddie pools.

Water courses and ponds

- Water courses must be designed so that the depth of the water, at any point, is less than 300mm.
- Where a pond (or any other water collection area) has, or has the potential to, pool water at a depth greater than 300mm, then the area is to be fenced with swimming pool fencing compliant with AS 1926.1:2007.
- Appropriate controls must be implemented to ensure pond water does not become stagnant refer OLE Standard (link below)
- A sub-surface bubbler is preferred to remove the need for hoses and portable equipment.
- Water courses are, where possible, to be directed into areas that have suitable drainage systems to avoid pooling such as sand and garden areas. Fish ponds and water features should have a rigid barrier over the water to prevent children from falling in.

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.

For more information

- Is your swimming pool kid safe? What you need to know about swimming pool fencing
- Department for Education <u>Outdoor Learning Environments Standard</u>
- Physical Environment in Family Day Care Standard
- 2 | Water safety in education and care settings | December 2018