

FLAXMILL PRESCHOOL

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY **Policy 2: Water Safety**

RATIONALE

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

OBJECTIVES

To ensure that the centre 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.

PROCEDURE

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 Centre and staff will:

- Closely supervise children near any water at all times.
- Teach children about staying safe in and around water.
- Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level.
- Do not leave buckets, water play trough or any other water hazards unsupervised in the preschool premises. These will be emptied after each use.
- Store equipment to prevent collection of water.
- Check garden after watering or rain and empty water that has collected in holes or containers.
- Tap heads will be kept on the high top shelf under the veranda for educators to access for the garden hose and water course.
- Buckets of water used during learning experiences throughout the day are to be filled immediately before use, supervised by an educator while in use, and emptied immediately and cleaned thoroughly after use.
- Provide clean drinking water at all times via puratap in the kitchen.
- Hot water accessible to children will be maintained at the temperature of 43.5 degrees C. Thermostatic valves to be tested and serviced annually by a plumber.
- Adults may carry and consume hot drinks in approved thermal cups/mug.

- 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.
- 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. All staff are required to keep first aid qualifications up to date.

EVALUATION

Supervision and access to water within the service is managed effectively by staff to ensure children remain safe and healthy.

SUPPORTIVE RESOURCES

Publication Date	June 2022	Review Date	June 2023
Related Policies, Procedures, Guidelines, Standards, Frameworks	<p>National Quality Standard 2.2.pdf</p> <p>Education and Care Services National Regulations https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/sl-2011-0653#sec.168 https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/sl-2011-0653#sec.102B</p> <p>Kidsafe 'Water safety in education and care settings' fact sheet Supporting Evidence\Policy 2 Water Safety\Kidsafe Water Safety in Education and Care Settings.pdf</p> <p>Outdoor learning environments standard Supporting Evidence\Policy 2 Water Safety\Outdoor Learning Environments Standard (1).pdf</p> <p>Water safety for preschools and water safety procedure Water safety for preschools.pdf Preschool water safety procedure.pdf</p> <p>Safety management procedure Safety management procedure.pdf</p>		

Endorsed by Staff and Governing Council June 2022

Policy review: This policy will be reviewed annually and/or as required based on department policy updates and/or advice.