



Water safety procedure

RATIONALE

The safety and supervision of children is paramount when in or around water. This relates to water play, excursions, near water, drinking water, hot water and hygiene practices with water and the environment. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences. The National Law (Section 167) requires that approved providers take reasonable care to protect children from harm, injury or illness. Extra diligence is required by educators to ensure children are closely supervised when they are near or around water.

PURPOSE

To ensure children's safety during water play activities and excursions.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management and visitors of the Service.

IMPLEMENTATION

Water play activities must not be left unattended

Where a water vessel is used for water play by children, the vessel must be emptied immediately after use and stored in a manner that prevents the vessel filling with water when not in use. The green water trough must have the lid put back on when it is not supervised by an educator. It is not to be filled greater than mid way in depth. The garden statue bowl is left over turned when not in use to prevent rainwater from pooling in it during wet months. (2 staff required for this re manual handling)

Staff must use risk assessment procedures when setting up a water play experience taking into consideration children's abilities, children with special rights, and safety issues re drowning. Water play activities must be supervised at all times.

When using the water trough or coloured square containers or statue bowl water they can be filled to the halfway point but they still require direct supervision within an arm's length. When finished with they must be emptied and cleaned thoroughly with disinfectant after use. Water must not be stored in containers over night or if unsupervised.

The frog pond must have the custom-made wrought iron lid in place – educators check as part of daily inspection and before taking children into that area. Frog pond to be kept at water level no greater than depth than 10cm from the bottom and requires direct supervision. The lid is to remain on at all times.

If children are going on an excursion or where there is a significant water hazard, educators will have conducted a risk assessment prior to going.

Children have safe independent access to clean and cool drinking water at all times. I.e., their water bottle or a plastic cup filled with filtered water if they have forgotten and filled as required. Children will be discouraged from drinking the water used in water play experiences and good hygiene practices will be encouraged.

Buckets used for general cleaning with the children will be filled no deeper than 10cm and will be supervised. Buckets will be emptied immediately after use and stored in an area not accessible to children on the top of the cupboard.

Water carriers/coolers with plastic taps that children use in the sandpit and mud kitchen will be supervised by an educator and lids on securely. Children are reminded that adults assist with the topping of these vessels.

The rainwater tank is not to be used for drinking- just watering the garden with water cans. Educators to supervise when in the vegetable garden and talk to children about this as part of safety discussion.

Educators discuss water safety at kindy, at home and in the community with the children as part of the curriculum and during water play experiences.

The service will ensure through scheduled plumbing maintenance that the water is at 43.5C and thermostatic mixing valves and water course feature are tested and serviced annually by a plumber.

All outdoor areas will be checked for water and pools of water with our outdoor daily inspections and addressed accordingly.

Policy reviewed: 3/6/2020	Added: excursion risk assessment and children have independent access to drinking water and the no greater than 30cm risk of possible drowning.
Reviewed: 4/6/2021	Added: Rationale, Concrete water bowl and EECSRSB Water safety Fact sheet.
Reviewed 18/2/2022	As the new pond area has been added this has been listed.
Reviewed 29.6.23	Removed inactive hyperlinks and added water vessels with taps.

National Quality Standard and Regulations

- [National Quality Standard 2.3](#)
- [Regulation 168 \(2\) \(a\) \(iii\)](#)

Policy and procedures

- [DFE Preschool water safety procedure](#)
- [Risk management policy](#)
- [Risk management procedure](#)
- [Hazard management procedure](#)
- [Safety Management](#)
- [Camps and excursions policy](#)

Sources

- EECSRSB Water Safety Fact Sheet
- Federal and State Health and Occupational Safety & Health Legislation
- www.kidsalive.com.au