

Reviewed by Governing Council Sept 2023

## Water Safety Procedure

Water can present an extreme risk for children's safety. A very shallow amount of water (5cm) can present a life-threatening risk.

### Strategies for Water Safety

- Water troughs/trays are only to be filled when there is active supervision by educators.
- When water is pooled in the dry creek bed or on the lawn after heavy rain, two educators are required to actively supervise in the outdoor environment.
- Water troughs/trays are to be emptied over lunch breaks (onto lawn or vegetable garden – sustainability) or the veranda blinds are to be shut.
- Children are actively supervised utilising the water course in the sandpit whilst digging pools and rivers.
- Water troughs, buckets, the mud kitchen sink, tyres, and storage containers are to be monitored for water pooling and emptied as required to ensure water does not become stagnant and attract mosquitos.
- A water play risk assessment is conducted with children, displayed, and reviewed annually.
- Access to the kitchen area is restricted to the children by a closed locked gate.
- Access to the laundry area is restricted to the children by a closed door that can be locked, with a high handle.

### Water & Sustainability

We recognise and value the importance of children's access to water for sensory play. We recognise and value the importance of children's play with water as a natural material, which relates to the EYLF, NQS (QA3 Physical Environment – sustainability focus) and our philosophy.

We also recognise the importance of water conservation in connection with sustainability. There is a connection between sustainability (water conservation) and children's play with the natural element/material, water.

- Water from water play is reused on our lawn or veggie garden.
- We have a water tank which children can access water from for water and messy play.
- A water pump is available for use in the sand pit.
- Educators work with children to develop understandings of water use and conservation.

### Water safety during excursions

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