



Water Safety Policy

Rationale

Children are naturally attracted towards water and enjoy playing in and around it, often without understanding the potential danger it presents. According to Kidsafe a child can unfortunately drown in as little as 5cm of water, in less than 20 seconds and the most common factor for childhood drowning is lack of supervision. Alarming statistics show that for every child that drowns, 10 others are rescued from a near drowning incident. A water hazard is defined as: *Anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth.*

Purpose

Staff at Hampstead Preschool want children to engage safely in water play experiences in a range of supervised safe environments, which include Preschool, home environment and community environments such as swimming pools and parks. Water play allows children to engage in activities which promote problem solving skills, language and communication, co-operative play and imaginative play as well as for enjoyment and fun.

How this will be achieved:

Staff will:

- Follow all departmental and WHS practices
- Carry out a detailed risk assessment prior to participating in excursions paying particular attention to potential water hazards
- Identify potential water hazards within the immediate environment and how these will be managed
- Actively supervise children
- Observe play and anticipate behaviour
- Scan and move around the area
- Listen closely for sounds or the absence of noise
- Maintain higher adult/child ratios during riskier activities
- Talk to children about potential hazards
- Eliminate hazards – through emptying vessels after use and avoiding the pooling of water
- Provide families with information about water safety around the home

How families can support us:

- Check out water safety information at: <https://kidsafesa.com.au/water-safety/>
- Complete the home water safety audit at: <https://www.kidsafevic.com.au/water-safety-audit/>
- Talk to your child about the potential dangers of water especially at bath time
- Encourage your child to participate in supervised water play at home or at the beach
- Share books and information about water safety with your child
- Enrol your child in swimming lessons
- Make sure children do not have access to ponds and swimming pools at home and that these are fenced according to Australian Standards

References:

Kidsafe Water Safety in Education and Care Settings

Kidsafe (Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Australia) <https://kidsafesa.com.au/>

Department for Education Preschool water safety procedure

Date Devised: 30th June 2020

Date Approved: 8th September 2020

Identified Hazard	How it will be managed
Sinks & basins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active supervision of children • Scanning and moving around the area • Listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise
Sandpit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active supervision of children • Scanning and moving around the area • Listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise • Observing play & anticipating behaviour • Ensuring pooling does not occur
Drinking trough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active supervision of children • Scanning and moving around the area • Listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise
Buckets & containers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active supervision of children • Scanning and moving around the area • Listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise • Observing play & anticipating behaviour • Emptying containers when not in use
Ponds & Lakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a risk assessment prior to visiting • Higher adult/child ratio • Active supervision of children • Scanning and moving around the area • Listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise • Observing play & anticipating behaviour