



Water Safety Policy

At Happy Valley Kindergarten, we believe children need opportunities to develop their understanding of the natural environment. Experiences with water encourage active exploration and discovery. Knowledge of potential hazards associated with water will assist educators to provide a safe, stimulating environment for preschool children. Drowning and near drowning is an obvious hazard associated with water. While swimming pools are an obvious hazard, other drowning hazards for young children include nappy storage buckets, animal water containers, ponds and poor drainage which allows water to pool etc.

Water Safety Guidelines:

- Children must always be adequately supervised when having access to any water hazards, such as the water trough.
- Where a water vessel is used for water play by children, the vessel is to be emptied immediately after use and stored in a manner that prevents the vessel filling with water when not in use.
- When children are taken on an excursion, where there is a significant water hazard, educators are to conduct a risk assessment in accordance with our excursions policy (please refer to the excursions policy for risk assessment form).
- Children are always to have safe independent access to clean and cool drinking water. Children's water bottles are re-filled using Pura tap filtered water and filters are replaced every 12 months. On warm days drink bottles are to be kept inside
- A water flushing program is to be carried out every 12 months in week 0.
- Each water feature has a back-flow valve installed.



Staff Responsibilities:

At Happy Valley Kindergarten, we are responsible for managing water hazards by:

- ensuring wading/paddling pools or water play troughs are emptied after each use and stored to prevent the collection of water
- ensuring fish / frog ponds and water features that are always not able to be adequately supervised and/or pose an unacceptable risk to children are guarded or effective barriers are in place
- when on excursions near water ensuring that the adult to child ratio does not exceed 1:4 and that a risk assessment is completed for specific situations.

In the event of an incident, injury, or 'near-miss', please refer to our policies for reporting and/or administering First Aid.