



Procedure: Water Safety

Rationale:

Water is an important resource for children's learning. Water experiences are offered in a variety of forms throughout the curriculum.

To ensure the safety of children whilst these experiences are being offered, centre staff will closely supervise children who are playing with or near any water at all times and will never leave children alone near any water without close-by supervision

PROCEDURE DETAIL

Safety precautions will include:

- When water play is offered in troughs or containers, they will be filled to a safe level. Buckets and the water play trough or any other potential water hazard will not be left unsupervised in the centre premises. After use, buckets and troughs will either be emptied or covered immediately.
- Equipment will be stored away from the elements to prevent the collection/pooling of water. The garden will be checked after watering or rain and any water which has collected will be emptied/drained.
- In keeping with the centre Sustainability Policy, any receptacle holding water which is no longer required, will be drained into the garden.
- Containers and buckets of water used for hand washing during creative messy experiences such as gloop or finger paint are to be placed in an area that is easily supervised by the staff on outside duty. They are to be emptied if the area is left unsupervised e.g. when all children go inside for lunch. Buckets filled with water for cleaning are to be filled immediately before use and emptied and thoroughly cleaned immediately afterwards.
- If water has been provided in the sand pit or digging patch, staff must be certain that pools of water are not remaining if an adult is not present to supervise.
- Hot water in areas accessible to children will be tempered and thermostatic valves will be tested and serviced through the preventative and maintenance schedule of works. Any breakdowns will be address immediately through the breakdown process.
- Adults may not carry and/or consume hot drinks near children unless it is in an approved thermal 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, at least one staff member with a current approved first aid qualification will be on the premises. It is best practice for all contact staff to hold current approved First Aid certificates