

Water Safety Policy

Water safety policy

Mandatory – Quality Area 2

Purpose

This policy will outline the procedures that apply to managing water safety, including safety during any water-based activities at Kalangadoo Kindergarten.

Policy statement

Kalangadoo Kindergarten is committed to:

- providing opportunities for children to explore their natural environment including through water play
- ensuring that children are protected from the risks associated with drowning or non-fatal drowning experiences
- ensuring that curriculum planning incorporates water safety awareness
- providing information to educators, staff, parents/guardians, volunteers and others at the service about water safety.

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Certified Supervisor, educators, staff, students on placement, volunteers, parents/guardians, children and others attending the programs and activities of Kalangadoo Kindergarten, including during offsite excursions and activities.

Background & legislation

The supervision and safety of children with and around water is of paramount importance.

Learning spaces and environments should offer an array of possibilities and connect children with natural materials. Water is one experience that offers children sensory-rich, open-ended experiences that engage children's curiosity and imagination. Children may encounter these resources in the service environment and/or when on excursions. These experiences, especially those conducted with and near water, will be carefully supervised ensuring the safety of children and adults.

Water safety relates to access to water in the building, the playground or on excursions, and also to the availability of drinking water for children.

It is imperative that educators remain vigilant in their supervision of children in and around water, and are alert to potential risks in everyday practice in the learning environment.

Drowning hazards include large bodies of water such as swimming pools, rivers, creeks, dams and ponds. Smaller bodies of water, including nappy buckets, water containers, pet water bowls and poor drainage which allows water to collect can also present drowning hazards for young children. Children can drown in as little as a few centimetres of water.

Water safety procedures

- ensuring that children are adequately supervised at all times when near water hazards
- ensuring that educator-to-child ratios are maintained at all times
- conducting a risk assessment in relation to any water hazards on or near the premises that may be accessible to children
- ensuring permission is obtained from parents/guardians for an excursion to a location where there is a water hazard
- ensuring that water hazards and risks associated with water-based activities are considered in a risk assessment prior to conducting excursions and other offsite events
- ensuring increased levels of supervision for an excursion to a location where there is a water hazard
- conducting a regular safety check of the service premises
- ensuring any water hazards that are not able to be adequately supervised at all times are isolated from children by a child-resistant barrier or fence
- ensuring that an educator with a current approved first aid qualification is in attendance and immediately available at all times children are being educated and cared for by the service
- ensuring that water safety awareness is embedded in the curriculum
- providing current information to parents about water safety.

REVIEWED: 7/6/17