



WATER SAFETY PROCEDURES

QUALITY AREA 2 – CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

Background

The safety and supervision of children in and around water is of the highest priority. This relates to water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the preschool environment. Water is an important component of our curriculum as it provides opportunities for sensory play, numeracy, literacy, engineering, science and problem solving.

A water hazard is anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth. Examples of water hazards that may be present at the kindergarten may include:

- Mud/Sand Kitchen
- Water course
- Potions making area
- Water trough, containers and buckets used for play
- Pooling water
- Hand basins
- Animal water tanks/homes

Principles

This policy has been developed to ensure that the kindergarten will prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to water hazards. Children's safety and wellbeing will be protected in and around water through supervision and prevention; and be promoted through the availability of clean, hygienic water for play and drinking.

Scope

This policy and procedure applies to kindergarten events both on and off site.

Context

This policy relates to the following National Law and Regulations:

- Education and Care Services National Regulations (R 168 (2) (a) (iii)).
- National Quality Standards - Quality Area 2: Children's health and safety

PROCEDURE:

To prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to watercourse, water troughs and other water hazards the Nominated Supervisor will:

- Provide guidance and education to children, educators, and families on the importance of children's safety in and around water.
- Ensure work, health and safety practices incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and play.

To prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to watercourse, water troughs and other water hazards, the staff will manage water-based activities and water safety through risk assessments.

Risk assessments may include matters such as:

1. Active supervision

- Children must be actively supervised at all times when there is a risk of access to any water hazard.
- Direct and constant monitoring of children
- Careful intentional positioning
- Scanning and moving around the area
- Listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise
- Observing play and anticipating behaviour

2. Eliminating hazards

- Water emptied after use and stored in a manner that prevents the vessel filling with water when not in use.
- All aspects of the environment must be designed to ensure adequate drainage of water to avoid pooling.
- If water pooling present, mitigate it, some examples to do this may include, sweeping the water, covering fish tanks
- Check garden after watering or rain and empty water that has collected in holes or containers.

3. Restricting access where necessary.

- Teach children about staying safe in and around water
- Provide clean drinking water at all times via filtered water tap in the kitchen.
- Ensure hot water thermostatic valves to be tested and serviced annually by a plumber and at appropriate temperature.
- Ensure any grey water, such as from the rainwater tank is not used for drinking. Explain to children the reasons why grey water should not be drunk and uses for grey water (e.g. Water play and watering gardens)
- Ensure adults carry and consume hot drinks in an approved lidded mug/cup when working with children.
- Conduct a water safety risk assessment prior to any excursion taking place where the excursion is near a body of water or involve water experiences.
- Ensure that at all times, when children are present, at least one staff member with a current approved first aid qualification are on the premises. It is best practice for all staff to hold current approved First Aid Certificates.

Responsibilities

- Educators will be made aware of this procedure through the Induction procedure
- The policy will be available on the Kindergarten web page
- This policy will be reviewed in conjunction with staff and Governing Council parents according to the review cycle.
- Parents will be made aware of this site-based procedure upon enrolment of their child at the Kindergarten
- Emergency and First aid procedures are to be followed in the event of a water incident.

updated by Governing Council September 2023 - to be reviewed annually