



Madison Park Kindergarten Water Safety Procedure

RATIONALE:

Madison Park Kindergarten understands the risks that water based activities pose and will undertake measures to protect the health and safety of all children involved in water based activities. We believe that children are naturally curious and inquisitive and want to find out how their world works. Experiences with water encourage rich open- ended and meaningful learning as children explore the properties of water and measurement.

Educators have an understanding of the potential hazards associated with water and will provide a safe, stimulating environment for all kindergarten children.

Implementation:

- Children must be adequately supervised at all times when having access to any water hazards. A water hazard is anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth – including; portable water troughs, sinks, basins, fish tanks, water course, chicken water and naturally pooling water.
- Where a water container is used for water play by children, the container is to be emptied directly after its use.
- Children will be supervised at all times when there is a risk of access to any water hazard. Active supervision includes:
 - Observing play and anticipating behaviour
 - Higher ratio's on excursions where water is present
 - Direct and constant monitoring of children (within arm's length 1-2mtrs)
 - Careful intentional positioning
 - Scanning and moving around the area
 - Listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise
 - Scanning and moving around the area
- The water course that pools into the sandpit should not exceed more than 300mm in depth.
- When children are taken on an excursion where there is a significant water hazard, educators are to conduct a risk assessment in accordance with the Department for Education Camp and Excursion Policy and guidelines
- Caution signs will be placed in high risk locations, reminding staff to supervise and maintain water levels

Guidelines for Educators:

- Educators will complete a risk assessment before allowing children to engage in water based activities.
- Educators will closely supervise children at all times and never leave any child unattended near water.
- Educators to ensure that water troughs are emptied after each use and stored to prevent the collection of water.
- Conduct daily yard checks and empty any water that has naturally pooled or filled containers.
- When digging in the sandpit, children will be adequately supervised to ensure that water does not exceed 300mm in depth and is draining adequately.

- Fish ponds or other water features that may pose an unacceptable risk are guarded with effective barriers in place.
- A risk assessment will be conducted for excursions near water and educator to child ratio will be 1:4.

Policy Reviewed: November 2023	Policy Endorsed by Governing Council	Policy to be reviewed by: November 2026
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