

Margaret Lohmeyer Kindergarten



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WATER SAFETY POLICY

Documented guidelines regarding water safety for children help ensure that children have a safe environment to explore in, and educators have clear guidance measures that will be implemented.

As a staff team we believe:

- All children have the right to feel secure and to learn and develop in a psychologically and physically safe, environment.
- Water is an important component of our curriculum as it provides opportunities for sensory play, numeracy, engineering, science and problem solving.

Water Hazards:

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

- Water course
- Mud kitchen
- Water trough, containers and buckets used for play.
- Pooling water

Managing water hazards

Water based activities and water safety are to be managed through risk assessments. Risk assessments are required to be completed that identify and assess risks associated with any water hazards and water-based activities. Risk assessments should 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. Active supervision includes:
 - Direct and constant monitoring of children – within 1 – 2 metres
 - 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 must be emptied immediately 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.
3. **Restricting** access where necessary.

Water courses

- Water courses must be designed so that the depth of water, at any point, is less than 300mm.
- A sub-surface bubbler or water pump is preferable to hoses and portable equipment.
- Water courses are, where possible to be directed into areas that have suitable drainage systems to avoid pooling.

Water troughs, buckets and other water receptacles

Water receptacles must be emptied immediately after use and stored upside down and out of children's reach.

Excursions

Water safety and potential water hazards must be considered when undertaking a risk assessment for an excursion, including a routine excursion.

Refer to risk assessments for water course, water trough, mud kitchen and pooling water.

Refer to camps and excursions guidelines for schools and preschools for further information.