

Water Safety Policy



Rationale

At Rose Park Preschool we believe:

- Safety of children in our care is paramount. Safety of children in and around water is a high priority.
- Water play is an important medium for children to experiment with and explore. It adds an engaging sensory experience to our learning environment. When playing with water children are developing their knowledge and understanding of mathematical concepts such as capacity and measurement. They are also engaging in important sensory play and enhancing their imaginative play skills, which increases oral language development.
- Most children love to play with water and are naturally drawn to it, and they may not understand the danger associated with water. We aim to educate children around playing with water safely.

This policy has been created and consistent with the requirements of the:

- Department for Education Preschool Water Safety Procedure
- Kidsafe SA Water Safety Resources

The ACECQA National Quality Standards Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety
Element 2:2:1 *At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.*

Water Safety Procedure

At preschool we will:

- Provide active supervision at all times when there is a risk of access to any water hazard. This includes:
 - Careful and Intentional positioning of water equipment such as the water trough and buckets of water.
 - Scanning and moving around the area when children are using water.
 - Listening closely for sounds or absence of noise.
 - Observing play and anticipating behaviour
- Eliminate hazards:
 - Water will be removed immediately after use and stored in a manner that prevents filling when not in use (eg: upside-down, in the shed, covered)
 - After rainfall when teachers complete daily outdoor inspection, any areas where water may have collected/pooled will be emptied (eg: pots/buckets), or areas may be blocked off if pooling on ground. The playspace has been designed to ensure adequate drainage of water.
 - Staff will fill troughs or containers for water play to a safe level of 300mm.
- Children will complete a risk benefit assessment with their teacher about water safety and staff will educate children about staying safe in and around water.
- Children will be changed into dry clothes if they become very wet during water play.
- A risk assessment will be conducted prior to excursions near water taking place.
- A water play at preschool risk assessment is reviewed quarterly.

Endorsed and ratified by Staff and Governing Council June 2022.
To be reviewed 2024.