

## Preschool Water Safety Policy and Procedures

### Rationale:

Children need opportunities to develop their understanding of the natural environment. Experiences with water encourage active exploration and discovery. Children need to be able to identify potential hazards and respond appropriately in order to keep themselves safe.

### Aims:

For staff to understand and respond appropriately to potential hazards associated with water (refer to Kidssafe Watery Safety in Education and Care settings factsheet), assist children to develop this knowledge and to consistently provide a safe, stimulating environment for preschool children.

### Implementation

#### Children will:

- be adequately supervised at all times when accessing any water.
- have safe independent access to clean and cool drinking water at all times.

#### Caregivers will:

- provide any information on enrolment about their child and throughout the year which would change the risk assessment for playing with or around water

#### Staff will:

- ensure vessels with water are set up in areas of higher supervision (eg: by school fence or in view of preschool classroom space).
- ensure vessels filled with water for play are emptied immediately after use and stored in a manner that prevents the vessel filling with water when not in use.
- ensure premises adjacent to, or providing access to, any water hazards that are not able to be adequately supervised at all times (eg dams, swimming pool) are to be isolated from children by a child resistant barrier or fence.
- Ensure practices are adapted to meet individual children's needs as required
- ensure risk assessments are written and approved for excursions which include access to a significant water hazard (in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 168)

- ensure future fish / frog ponds and water features that are not able to be adequately supervised at all times and/or pose an unacceptable risk to children are guarded or effective barriers are in place.

**Resources used for developing this policy:**

***Policy Area and Regulation:***

**Water Safety**

**Regulation 168(2)(a) (iii)**

***Department Information on Intranet:***

**[Water safety for preschools](#)**

***Resources for developing procedure:***

Preschool water safety procedure

Camps and excursions guidelines for schools and preschools

Risk management policy

Hazard management procedure

OHS&W and injury management policy (2010 Health and Safety Services)

**Intranet: [Preschool excursions](#)**

Excursion risk management information sheet

Excursion risk management plan template