



## 2.21 Water Safety Policy

### QUALITY AREA 2: Children's Health and Safety

#### Policy:

The safety and supervision of children in and around water is of the highest priority. Whilst water hazards at our service are kept to a minimum, we acknowledge that water troughs, sinks and buckets can all be hazardous for children and diligent supervision is required.

#### Background:

Drowning is the leading cause of death for children aged 1-4 years in Australia. While most drowning occurs in backyard swimming pools, it is important to be aware that children can drown in as little as 6cm of water.

#### Goals:

Our service has a responsibility to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of each child at all times. The safety and supervision of children in and around water relates to water play, excursions near water, hot water drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the Preschool environment. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences.

#### Practices:

##### Water Safety

- Children will be supervised at all times in and around any body of water including water troughs, sinks and other resources involving water.
- A risk assessment will be conducted prior to any excursion taking place. Particular attention will be focused upon water safety where the excursion is near a body of water.
- The thermostat on the hot water system is set to a maximum of 43.5°C to ensure children are not able to scald themselves when washing hands.
- Children requiring bathing will be bathed using a washcloth and warm water rather than immersed in a bath.
- Educators are not permitted to consume hot drinks in any area accessible to children.

##### Water Hygiene

- Water tanks will be labelled with "do not drink" signage and the children will be supervised in this area to make sure they are not accessing this water for drinking.
- Educators will discuss with the children that this water is for the purpose of play and not for consumption.
- Water for pets at the service will be changed regularly and not accessible to children unless supervised by an adult.
- Water containers of any sort will be emptied or covered when not in use.
- Drinking water containers will be emptied and cleaned daily.

**Approved Provider will:**

1. Ensure the preschool operates in line with the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations 2011.

**The Nominated Supervisor will:**

1. Ensure children are adequately supervised, are not subject to inappropriate discipline, and are protected from harm and hazards
2. Provide supervision, guidance and advice to ensure adherence to the policy at all times
3. Ensure risk assessments for excursions planned near water identify a higher staff to child ratio to ensure adequate supervision.
4. Ensure First Aid and CPR qualifications and requirements are met at all times
5. Provide families with community messages regarding safe water practices through newsletters

**Educators and staff will:**

1. Embed water safety messages into the children's education program
2. Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level and emptied after use.
3. Empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use. No cleaning buckets are to be left in areas or accessible to children
4. Discourage children from drinking grey water. Provide clean drinking water at all times

**Families will:**

1. Reinforce water safety practice with children

**Relevant Legislation:**

- Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2018
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**Links to National Quality Standard:**

- 2.2.1 At all times reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazards
- 3.1.1 Outdoor and indoor spaces, buildings, fixtures and fittings are suitable for their purpose, including supporting the access for every child.

**Key Resources:**

- National Health and Medical Research Council - [www.nhmrc.gov.au](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au)
- NSW Department of Health - [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)
- Pool and Water Safety - [www.kidsafe.com.au](http://www.kidsafe.com.au)
- Water use and restrictions see - [www.sydneywater.com.au](http://www.sydneywater.com.au)

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