



# Water Safety

## Statement

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 nappy buckets, water troughs, sinks and toilets can all be hazardous for children and diligent supervision is required.

## Goals

Our service has a responsibility to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of each child at all times. 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.

## Strategies

### Water Safety

- Children will be supervised at all times in and around any body of water including water troughs, toilets and nappy buckets.
- 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 medium temperature 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

- Grey water systems or 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 at 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.



## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Approved Provider and Nominated Supervisor**

- Ensure the service operates in line with the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations 2011.
- Ensure children are adequately supervised, are not subject to inappropriate discipline, and are protected from harms and hazards.
- Provide supervision, guidance and advice to ensure adherence to the policy at all times.
- Ensure risk assessments for excursions planned near water identify a higher staff to child ratio to ensure adequate supervision.
- Ensure First Aid and CPR qualifications and requirements are met at all times.
- Provide families with community messages regarding safe water practices.

### **Early Childhood Educators and Certified Supervisors**

- Embed water safety messages into the children's education program.
- Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level and emptied or covered securely after use and ensure these items are supervised at all times, when occupied with water.
- Empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use. No cleaning buckets are to be left in areas or accessible to children.
- Discourage children from drinking grey water. Provide clean drinking water at all times.

### **Families**

- Reinforce water safety practice with children.



## **Monitoring, Evaluating and Review**

This policy will be monitored to ensure compliance with legislative requirements and unless deemed necessary through the identification of practice gaps, the service will review this Policy every two years. Families and staff are essential stakeholders in the policy review process and will be given opportunity and encouragement to be actively involved.

## **Sources**

### **Related Legislation**

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Section 167

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: Regulation 168(2) (h) & (a) (iii)

### **Related Guidelines, Standards, Frameworks**

National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety - Standard 2.3 & Standard 3.1

### **Sources**

Kidsafe NSW: [www.kidsafensw.org/watersafety/](http://www.kidsafensw.org/watersafety/)

Kids Alive: [www.kidsalive.com.au](http://www.kidsalive.com.au)

Kids Health: [http://kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid\\_safe/outdoor/water\\_safety.html](http://kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid_safe/outdoor/water_safety.html)