



WATER SAFETY POLICY

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety

POLICY 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/WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

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 less than 6cm of water.

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES

Water Safety

- Children will be supervised at all times in and around any body of water including water troughs, toilets and nappy buckets.
- Educator-to-child ratios will be increased where appropriate around water.
- No child will be left unsupervised at any stage around any body of 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 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.





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STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES – MANAGEMENT AND EDUCATORS

The Approved Provider will:

- Ensure the service operates in line with the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations 2011.

The Nominated Supervisor/ Responsible Person / Educators will:

- Ensure children are adequately supervised 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, or any water-based activities, 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
- 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.
- Ensure water troughs or containers are only filled while in attendance by an adult at all times.
- Ensure no child is left unattended at any time with any body of water.
- Empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use.
- Ensuring no cleaning buckets are left in areas accessible to children.
- Prevent children from drinking grey water.
- Provide clean drinking water at all times

RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS

- Reinforce water safety practice with children.

LINKS TO EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS, NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD

QA	2.1.1	Each child’s wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child’s needs for sleep, rest and relaxation.
	2.2	Each child is protected.





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SOURCES/RESOURCES / USEFUL LINKS

Sources

- Kidsafe Australia - www.kidsafe.com.au
- Kids Alive – www.kidsalive.com.au
- Kids Health – <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/water-safety.html>

POLICY REVIEW

The Service encourages staff and parents to be actively involved in the annual review of each of its policies and procedures. In addition, the Service will accommodate any new legislative changes as they occur and any issues identified as part the Service's commitment to quality improvement. The Service consults with relevant recognised authorities as part of the annual review to ensure the policy contents are consistent with current research and contemporary views on best practice.

Date(s) reviewed: April 2019 / April 2020 / January 2021 / February 2022.

