

WATER SAFETY POLICY

Policy Statement

This Policy outlines the Service's approach to water safety so that children remain unharmed and healthy and applies at the Service and during excursions. Safety and supervision of children are the highest priority when children have access to water. The Policy covers hot water, drinking water, hygiene practices with water, and water play. It also includes safe storage of equipment used for water play.

Strategies and Practices

- The *Water Safety Policy* is available to families upon enrolment and staff upon induction.
- Children are closely supervised at all times they are involved in water play or are near water. They are never left alone near water.
- Children have ready access to clean drinking water at all times and are regularly offered water throughout the day.
- All water troughs and containers are emptied at the end of each water play experience and are allowed to dry thoroughly.
- Staff must empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use. No cleaning buckets are to be left in areas accessible to children.
- The Nominated Supervisor/Responsible Person completes an *Excursion Risk Assessment* prior to every excursion. As part of the risk assessment, particular attention is focused upon water safety whenever the excursion is near a body of water, and upon supervision implications.
- Parents are asked to provide spare clothing for their child in the event that their child engages in water play and becomes uncomfortably wet.
- Water conservation is embedded in the Service's practices. Examples include:
 - water used in water play is emptied onto gardens
 - water play is discontinued during water restrictions, and the reasons explained to the children; and
 - educators encourage and educate children regarding water wise practices such as turning off taps to avoid wastage.
- The temperature of hot water accessible to children is between 38 and 40.5 degrees Celsius in accordance with the Plumbing Code of Australia. Thermostatic valves are tested and serviced by a plumber, and this action recorded.
- Daily safety checks are completed to ensure all water hazards are minimised or removed. Any hazards or potential hazards identified are addressed, and children are excluded from the area until the hazard is rectified.
- Educators and families are not permitted to prepare or consume hot drinks in any area accessible to children.

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References

- *Education and Care Services National Law*
- *Education and Care Services National Regulations*
- *Guide to the National Quality Framework*
- Australian Childcare Alliance (2019) *Water Safety Sample Policy*
- Kidsafe NSW Inc. Water Safety <https://www.kidsafensw.org/water-safety/>
- Dr Brenda Abbey (*Childcare by Design*)
- *Plumbing Code of Australia*

Policy Review

The Service encourages staff and parents to be actively involved in the 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 of the Service's commitment to quality improvement. The Service consults with relevant recognised authorities, where necessary, as part of the review to ensure the policy contents are consistent with current research and contemporary views on best practice.