



Water Safety

Approved by board on: 20th September 2023
Scheduled review date: 20th September 2025

Introduction

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 play troughs, excursions, sinks and toilets can all be hazardous for children and diligent supervision is required.

Children also need education around hygiene practices and access to drinking water.

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 less than 6cm of water.

Policy

Water Safety

- Children will be supervised at all times in and around any body of water including water troughs and toilets.
- 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.
- Educators are not permitted to consume (uncovered) hot drinks in any area accessible to children.

Water Hygiene

- 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 when in use

Responsibilities

The approved provider is to:

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

Water Safety

The nominated supervisor is to:

- 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.
- Provide clean drinking water at all times.