



## ▲ WATER SAFETY

### ▲ NQS

**Element 1.1.1:** Curriculum decision making contributes to each child's learning and development outcomes in relation to their identity, connection with community, wellbeing, confidence as learners and effectiveness as communicators.

**Element 1.1.3:** All aspects of the program, including routines, are organised in ways that maximises opportunities for each child's learning.

**Element 1.2.1** Educators are deliberate, purposeful, and thoughtful in their decisions and actions.

**Element 2.2.1:** At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.

**Element 3.2** The service environment is inclusive, promotes competence and supports exploration and play based learning.

**Education and Care Services National Regulations:** 77-79, 101(2) (b, c), 103, 168(2)(a)(iii), 168(2)(h).

### ▲ PURPOSE

- To ensure safety and wellbeing of children when in contact with any source of pooled water.
- To ensure access to clean drinking water always.

### ▲ POLICY

- For children to have opportunities to engage in water play experiences that foster learning and development.
- For children to have access to clean, hygienic water for drinking.

### ▲ PROCEDURES

The **Nominated Supervisor** will:

- Ensure a water safety risk assessment is conducted and reviewed at least annually.
- provide guidance and information to educators, employees, and families on the importance of children's safety in and around water.
- ensure work, health and safety practices incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and play.

**Educators will:**

- ensure all water play experiences follow the guidelines of the associated risk assessments and engage in regular risk assessment reviews
- ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level; generally, no more than 5cm, or in accordance with associated risk assessment
- empty troughs or containers onto garden areas immediately after use
- ensure water activities can be supervised at all times
- teach children about staying safe in and around water
- always provide clean drinking water.

**WATER PLAY SAFETY**

- A minimum of one (1) educator will be actively involved in any water play activity. Where educators are not able to be in attendance at a water play experience, it will be packed away.
- The water receptacle should be positioned in a location which is shaded, close to drainage facilities and is non-slip.
- When not in use the water receptacle is to be emptied and stored to prevent the collection of water. Any container which could constitute a drowning hazard must be covered and inaccessible to children.
- Children will not have access to wading pools for health reasons.
- Sprinklers are an appropriate option for cooling children and can be used in accordance with the local council watering guidelines.

**OPERATIONAL SAFETY**

- Hot water accessible to children will be maintained at the temperature of 43.5°C. Thermostatic valves to be tested and serviced annually by a plumber.
- 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.
- Water for pets at the setting must be changed regularly and only be accessible to children when adults are present.

**DRINKING WATER**

- Clean drinking water is always available.
- Water containers will be securely sealed. At the end of each day, the water container will be emptied and cleaned thoroughly.
- When the service has grey water systems or water tanks they 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.

**▲ SOURCES AND FURTHER READING**

- Children Education and Care Services National Law Application Act 2010
- Education and Care Services National Regulations



- [Kidsafe NSW](#)
- [Kidsafe Victoria](#)
- [Kidsafe](#)

### ▲ ASSOCIATED POLICIES

- Accident Prevention
- Accidents and Incidents
- Child Save Environments and Supervision
- Excursions

### ▲ POLICY REVIEW

- The Centre (together with educators) will review this policy every 12 months.
  - The Approved Provider and Centre Director ensure that at all times all educators maintain and implement this policy and its procedures.
  - Families are encouraged to collaborate with the Centre to review the policy and procedures.
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- **Last review:** 24.10.2023
  - **Next review:** 24.10.2024