

WATER SAFETY POLICY

Quality Areas: NQS 2 – Children’s Health and Safety

Policy Owner: Safety

A light blue speech bubble containing the text 'Why this is important' in a dark blue, handwritten-style font.

1.0 Introduction and Purpose

Water play has significant learning opportunities for all children. Whilst children engage in water, our centres must ensure that children’s safety in and around water is a priority.

Children have access to water throughout the day for many reasons. Children are provided with water regularly throughout the day in addition to meal times to ensure that they are appropriately hydrated. Children are provided with independent access to water throughout the day and infants are regularly supported with opportunities for water.

Water play is seen as an important part of children’s learning and development. Children can learn a range of scientific and mathematic concepts through access to water as well as being a valuable sensory experience. Children have the right to be safe and well supervised when exploring all aspects of water. Water is a meaningful resource for children to explore, experiment, and learn with.

2.0 Who does this policy apply to:

All team members and children

3.0 What is our Policy:

- i. A risk assessment will be conducted when going on regular outings/excursions where water or bodies of water are identified within the environment when water play experiences are introduced into the indoor or outdoor learning spaces.
- ii. The water temperatures for children will be no more than 43.5C to avoid scalding. Team members can use a probe thermometer to test the temperature of water. Water that is boiled for use with infant formula needs to be completely cooled before being used. Recognised authorities will test hot water temperatures yearly to ensure they are safe for children
- iii. Team members will maintain current First Aid and CPR qualifications.
- iv. Team members will not consume hot drinks in any learning space and will not consume hot drinks if they are responsible for children during an outing or excursion
- v. Boiled water for young children will be boiled and cooled in the bottle prep area or kitchen, prior to the water entering where children are present.
- vi. Water safety resources to support safe water play and the assessment of risks for children and families will be available to families either via Story park or in the family/foyer area of your centre.
- vii. Grey water systems or water tanks will be labelled with ‘non potable water / do not drink’ signage and the children will be supervised in this area to make sure they are not accessing this water for drinking.

- viii. Grey water systems and water tanks will be regularly cleaned, checked and maintained. Large tanks (2000 litres) or more will be professionally cleaned every two years (log through the facilities helpdesk). Gutters are cleaned every 6 months as part of the maintenance schedule to ensure no debris falls in the water tanks.
- ix. Team members will discuss with the children that water from water tanks is for the purpose of play and watering the garden, not for drinking.
- x. Direct supervision will be provided around water play experiences and the experience will consider the age and development of the children.
- xi. Water for pets at the centre will be changed daily and not accessible to children unless supervised by an educator.
- xii. Water containers of any sort will be emptied or covered when not in use. All pooled water from rain, water play etc will be cleared to prevent a possible drowning.
- xiii. Drinking water bottles and containers will be emptied and cleaned daily.
- xiv. Water Safety will be embedded into the educational program.

4.0 Responsibilities

4.1 Approved Provider will:

- Have in place policies and procedures addressing water safety, including excursions, regular outings and child safe environments
- Ensure premises have in place a thermostat on the hot water system is set to a medium temperature to ensure children are not able to scald themselves when washing hands
- Ensure all team members and the Centre Leadership Team have current first aid, asthma and anaphylaxis and CPR qualifications
- Grey water systems or water tanks are labelled with “non potable water / do not drink” signage.

4.2 Centre Manager / Nominated Supervisor (NS) will:

- Ensure that all team members follow and understand the water safety policy and procedure by providing supervision, guidance and advice
- Ensure children are adequately supervised and are protected from harms and hazards
- Ensure risk assessments for excursions planned near water identify a higher staff to child ratio to ensure adequate supervision
- Ensure consent from families is sought prior to excursions
- Ensure a systematic system is in place to ensure all First Aid and CPR qualifications and requirements are met
- Ensure that hot water temperature testing has been undertaken by the Facilities Team annually
- Provide information about water safety to families and team members in accessible formats (i.e. brochures and pamphlets, Storypark, newsletters etc.)
- Ensure team members, visitors or families do not consume hot drinks in any area accessible to children
- If possible, invite community experts to share knowledge about water safety
- Water tanks will have a scheduled clean yearly and be checked regularly to ensure water is safe for children
- If your centre provides access to a self-service coffee machine or offers other hot drinks to families or visitors, these should not be taken into the learning space

4.3 Team Members will:

- Follow the requirements of this policy
- Ensure safe, clean, and fresh drinking water is available to all children indoors and outdoors. Regularly provide cooled boiled water for infants under 12 months of age

- When planning any water experience, consider any possible risks and put in place strategies to minimise these risks giving consideration to time of the day, adequate supervision for the experience, and other tasks or activities performed at this time
- Ensure that no amount of pooled water is left unattended
- Ensure you communicate with families the importance of regular cleaning of water bottles at home. Where water bottles are not suitably cleaned at home, team members will undertake cleaning at the centre
- Embed water safety messages into the indoor and outdoor program
- Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level (no deeper than 20cm) and emptied or covered securely after use, including water pump containers and creek beds
- Empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use. No cleaning buckets are to be left in areas accessible to children
- After rain, any troughs, containers, or sand pit covers are checked for water, and are emptied before children have access to the area
- Implement correct manual handling techniques when moving or emptying containers or water troughs
- Ensure children are not drinking the grey water or from the rain water tank. A sign 'non potable water / do not drink' and a visual image is displayed near grey water and on the rain water tank
- Educate children about the grey water, rain water tank and sustainable practices
- Change children into clean dry clothes after the child has finished exploring water
- Ensure that drains and plumbing are not blocked by sand, dirt, or leaves so that the drainage systems work effectively

4.4 Families will:

- Reinforce water safety practices with children
- Provide consent for their child to attend and excursion where water hazards are possible
- Share their knowledge of water safety with the centre, children, and team members
- Provide a change of suitable cloths

5.0 Tools and Resources

<p>The most important documents I need are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk Assessment Form Regular Outing and Excursion Resources Safe Environments 	<p>Other supporting documents will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heat and Play Safety Share Working Safely Using the Stanley Infrared Thermometer
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6.0 Sources

Act Section 165	Offence to inadequately supervise children
Act Section 167	Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards
Regulation 25(1)(c)	Additional information about proposed education and care service premises
Regulation 101	Conduct of risk assessment for excursion
Regulation 115	Premises designed to facilitate supervision
Regulation 116B	Inspection report
Regulation 168(2)(a)(iii)	Education and care services must have policies and procedures on water safety, including safety during any water-based activities
Regulation 170	Policies and procedures to be followed
Regulation 171	Policies and procedures to be kept available
Regulation 172	Notification of change to policies or procedures
Regulation 274	Swimming pools (NSW only)



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