

## Water Safety Policy

This policy was reviewed in March 2022

The safety and supervision of children in and around water is of the highest priority. This relates to water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in the service environment. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences to help keep children safe in and around water and support children's learning in a safe environment.

Relevant legislation:

*Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*

National Quality Standard 2.3

*Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*

### Management/Nominated Supervisor/Responsible Person will:

- Ensure water hazards and water play are always highly supervised including:
  - direct and constant monitoring of children
  - careful and intentional positioning of educators
  - scanning and moving around the environment
  - observing play and anticipating behaviour
  - ensuring no child is left unattended when in proximity to water
- provide direction and education to educators, staff and families on the importance of children's safety and supervision in and around water
- conduct a risk assessment in accordance with Regulation 101 prior to taking children on an excursion – consider any water hazards and any risk associated with water based activities before an excursion/incursion is approved
- ensure at least one educator who holds an approved first aid qualification is in attendance at the service at all times
- display a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) guide both indoors and outdoors
- ensure water hazards and water play are always highly supervised
- ensure hot water is inaccessible to children
- supervise children near water at all times (call for assistance if required)
- never leave children alone near any water
- follow daily checklist of premises to ensure all hazards are minimised
- utilise water activities in appropriate weather
- allow the children the opportunity to experiment with water, sand and other materials
- incorporate water safety awareness into the educational programme
- monitor all taps to ensure they are turned off securely when not in use
- check for and empty any water that has collected in holes or containers after rainfall and watering gardens (morning checklist and after rain during the day)
- ensure water troughs are used with a stand (not placed on the ground)
- ensure children remain standing on the ground whilst using the water trough
- ensure buckets of water used for soaking toys or laundry is inaccessible to children
- ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level and emptied into the garden areas after each use
- Water play experiences may be provided for babies using a flat tray with water (babies may sit on the ground with close supervision)
- discourage children from drinking from water activities
- teach children about being safe in and around water

Water for pets at the service must be changed daily and only be accessible to children when an educator is present.

SOURCE

ACECQA 2021 Water Safety Guidelines  
ECA Code of Ethics  
Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 (Amended 2018)  
Education and Care Services Regulations (2011)  
Kidsafe (2021) Water Safety  
National Health and Medical Research

## **Sand and water play**

Educators have observed children's interest and delight when adding water to sand, and recognise the safety and environmental concerns which may arise when combining the two natural resources. Educators have discussed and implemented a new water system for the sandpit that will promote safe water play and respect for the environment.

- Containers will be left outdoors to collect rainwater which may be used to add to the sandpit.
- Children will be required to let educators know if they would like to initiate water play, to ensure an educator is available to closely supervise the sandpit or mud kitchen area.
- The container will be filled with rainwater naturally, however, when there has been no rain and the children request water play, the container will be filled by an educator once in the morning and again in the afternoon (if requested). Children will be educated on water preservation and will know that one container of water will need to be shared amongst peers.
- Children will be educated on the appropriate time for water play ensuring an educator is available to supervise. Meal times will need to be considered. Water/sand play experiences may take place at anytime during the day after morning tea time.

Through the implementation of collecting rainwater to be used in the sandpit and mud kitchen the children will have the opportunity to show respect for the environment through the conservation and re use of rain water. They will see materials being recycled and reused to produce new products. They will use their senses to explore natural and built environments (EYLF Outcomes 2, 3 & 4).