



## Water Safety Policy

### Relevant Legislation

Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010.  
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011:168  
National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care and School Age Care:  
Element 2.1.1; Element 2.3.2 and Element 7.3.5.

### Introduction

Water based activities are popular in our community which located by the sea. We acknowledge the joy and pleasure that water activities provide but equally we acknowledge the importance of vigilance when supervising water based experiences.

The safety and supervision of children in and around water is of the highest priority. This policy relates to water play, excursions near water, hot water, drinking water and hygiene practices with water in our preschool environment. In addition we recognise that our preschool has an important role to play in promoting and educating families and our community about the importance of children's safety in and around water.

### Policy Goals

Children's safety and wellbeing is protected in and around water through :

- ❖ Supervision and prevention.
- ❖ The availability of clean, hygienic water for play and for drinking.
- ❖ Working in partnership with families and the community to promote the importance of children's safety in and around water.

## Strategies: What will we do?

### The Nominated Supervisor will:

- Provide guidance and education to educators, staff 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 and staff will:

- Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level. These activities will be supervised at all times and containers or troughs will be emptied onto garden areas after use. Children will be discouraged from drinking from these water activities;
- Teach children about staying safe in and around water;
- Empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use. No buckets are left in play areas or accessible to children;
- Provide clean drinking water at all times. This water will be supervised to ensure that it is safe and hygienic for consuming.

### Operational Safety

- Grey water systems or water tanks 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;
- Hot water accessible to children will be maintained at the temperature of 43.5OC. 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;
- Adults may carry and consume hot drinks only in a thermal cup or mug with a screw lid that prevents spilling;
- Water for pets at the setting must be changed regularly and only be accessible to children when adults are present.

### Evaluation

Supervision and access to water within the service is managed effectively by staff to ensure children remain safe and healthy.

## Procedures and Forms

- Staff Induction Procedures
- Excursion Permission forms.
- Enrolment Handbook.
- Maintenance Schedule

## Links to other Policies

- Accidents, Emergencies and First Aid
- Enrolment and Orientation
- Excursions
- Staff Induction Policy
- Staff Appraisal Policy
- Interaction with Children Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Emergency Procedures Policy
- Sun Protection Policy
- Health Hygiene and Infection Control
- Incident, Injury, Trauma, Illness Policy
- Medication and Medical Conditions
- Work Health and Safety Policy
- Nutrition Policy
- Child Protection Policy.

## Sources and References

National Health and Medical Research Council: [www.nhmrc.gov.au](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au)

NSW Department of Health: [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)

Pool and Water Safety : [www.kidsafe.com.au](http://www.kidsafe.com.au)

DEEWR child Care Services Handbook 2011-2012. (Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations). Website : [www.deewr.gov.au](http://www.deewr.gov.au)

Tathra Preschool Enrolment Handbook

Early Childhood Australia: [www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au](http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au)

## Date Adopted

December 2012

## Review Date

2017 Updated  
2021 review or when procedure, practice or legislation changes.