



Water Safety

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.

Aims

Children's safety and wellbeing will:

- be protected in and around water through supervision and prevention; and
- be promoted through the availability of clean, hygienic water for play and for drinking.

Water Safety Strategies:

The Nominated Supervisor will:

1. Provide guidance and education to educators, staff and families on the importance of children's safety in and around water.
2. Ensure work, health and safety practices incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and play.

Educators and staff will:

1. 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.
2. Teach children about staying safe in and around water.
3. Empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use. No cleaning buckets are left in play areas or accessible to children.
4. Provide clean drinking water at all times. This water will be supervised to ensure that it is safe and hygienic for consuming. Water containers will be securely sealed.

Operational Safety

1. Hot water accessible to children will be maintained at the temperature of 43.5C. Thermostatic valves to be tested and serviced annually by a plumber.
2. 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.



3. Adults may carry and consume hot drinks only in a thermal cup or mug with a screw or tightly fitted lid that prevents spilling. Hot drink containers must be kept out of reach, and at a safe distance from the children.
4. Water for pets - the fish tank must be kept in good condition. The lid is only to be opened by an adult. The children are supervised by an adult when it is their turn to feed the fish.

Evaluation

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

References:

Community Child Care Co operative: Water Safety Sample Policy

Statutory Legislation & Considerations

Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
(168)

Sources

National Health and Medical Research Council - www.nhmrc.gov.au

NSW Department of Health - www.health.nsw.gov.au

Further resources:

Pool and Water Safety - www.kidsafe.com.au

Water use and restrictions see - www.sydneywater.com.au