

Water

Policy Statement

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.

Policy Considerations

- Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010 Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- 168 Policy and procedure in relation to 2 (a) (iii) water safety, including safety during any water-based activities
- National Quality Standards/Elements: 2.2.1 (Supervision), 2.2.2 (Incident and emergency management), 7.1 (Governance)

Procedure

The Coordinator/Nominated Supervisor will:

- Provide guidance and education to 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 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 to be left in play areas or accessible to children.
- Provide clean drinking water. This water will be supervised to ensure that it is safe and hygienic for consuming. Water containers will be securely sealed. At the end of each day, the water container will be emptied and cleaned thoroughly.

Excursions and major on-site activities

- 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.
- Swimming excursions are to occur in supervised pools only. The Service should confirm with the venue that a lifeguard will be on duty.
- Excursions should not be planned for open bodies of water, such as lakes, rivers, streams or the ocean which have a higher risk level.
- A higher ratio of educators to children may be required for swimming excursions
- An alternate option should be made available for children who do not wish to swim.
- On-site water play activities will be closely monitored. Children must not be left unattended near a body of water.

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Reviewed by:	Courtney Tanner	Approved by:	Natasha Finnigan

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. Staff will discuss with the children that this water is for the purpose of play and not for consumption.
- Educators and staff will support partner schools in reporting any water hazards identified, including leaks and water faults.
- Adults may carry and consume hot drinks only in a thermal cup or mug with a screw lid that prevents spilling.
- Children are encouraged to use their own drink bottles and use the water bubblers on-site to stay hydrated. They may also ask an educator for water at any time or access the water cooler if available.

Document Version Control

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