



MADGE SEXTON KINDERGARTEN

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY
MANAGING INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SAFETY

Policy 3: Water Safety

Rationale: 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 preschool environment. Children will be supervised at all times during water play experiences.

Aims:

- To ensure that the centre will prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to water hazards. 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 drinking.

Procedure:

To prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to watercourse, water troughs and other water hazards 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.

To prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to watercourse, water troughs and other water hazards, the Centre and staff will:

- Not install a swimming pool or wading pool on the premises.
- Closely supervise children near any water at all times.
- Teach children about staying safe in and around water.
- Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level. Do not leave buckets, water play trough or any other water hazards unsupervised in the preschool premises. Empty after use.
- Store equipment to prevent collection of water. Check garden after watering or rain and empty water that has collected in holes or containers.
- Buckets of water used during learning experiences throughout the day are to be filled immediately before use, supervised by an adult while in use, and emptied immediately and cleaned thoroughly after use.
- Provide clean drinking water at all times via filtered water fountain on verandah.
- Hot water accessible to children will be maintained at the temperature of 43.5 degrees C. Thermostatic valves to be tested and serviced annually by a plumber.
- Adults may carry and consume hot drinks only in approved thermal mug.
- 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.
- At all times, when children are present, there must be at least one staff member with a current approved first aid qualification, on the premises. It is best practice for all staff to hold current approved First Aid Certificates. All staff are required to keep first aid qualifications up to date. The centre will cover the costs of this staff training.

Evaluation:

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

Endorsed by Staff & Governing Council September 2017

To be reviewed: September 2019