



WATER SAFETY POLICY

The safety and supervision of children in and around water is of the highest priority. Whilst water hazards at our service are kept to a minimum, we acknowledge that any body of water (including water troughs, sinks and toilets) can be hazardous for children, and diligent supervision is required.

AIM:

Our service has a responsibility to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of each child at all times. Drowning is a leading cause of death for children aged 0-4 in Australia. While most drowning occurs in backyard swimming pools, it is important to be aware that children can drown in less than 6cm of water.

PROCEDURE:

- Children will be supervised at all times in and around any body of water including water troughs, toilets, washing buckets and cleaning buckets.
- Educator-to-child ratios will be increased where appropriate and necessary around water.
- No child will be left unsupervised at any stage around any body of water.
- Empty or cover any water troughs not in use.
- Empty water buckets used for cleaning after they have been used.
- 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.
- 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 any water relating to activities is for the purpose of play and not for consumption.
- Water containers of any sort will be emptied or covered when not in use.
- Drinking water containers will be emptied and cleaned daily.
- Embed water safety messages into the educational program.

National Standards: Quality Area 2

Law: Sections 165 – Adequate supervision; 167 – protection of children from harm or hazard

Regulations: Regulation 168(2)(h)&(a)(iii) – Prescribed Policies

Sources used to write policy: Kidsafe Australia; Kids Alive; Kids Health.