



Water Safety Policy

Background

Drowning is the leading cause of death for children aged 1-4 years in Australia. While most drowning occurs in backyard swimming pools, it is important to be aware that children can drown in as little as a few centimetres of water. Non-fatal drowning incidents are also of great concern as they can have potential long-term effects, including brain damage and permanent disability.

Whilst water hazards in the Children's Room at Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Centre (BNC) are kept to a minimum, we acknowledge that water troughs, sinks and toilets can all be hazardous for children and diligent supervision is required.

Connecting children with natural materials including water offers children sensory-rich, open-ended experiences that engage their curiosity and imagination. We create opportunities for children to learn and develop and incorporate water safety awareness into the educational program. The safety and supervision of children in and around water is of the highest priority.

Purpose

The aims of this policy are:

- To ensure the safety and supervision of children in and around water.
- To meet legislative requirements.

Policy Statements

Children will be supervised at all times in and around any body of water including water sinks, toilets, hot water, drinking water and any water-based experiences. No child will be left unattended when in proximity to water.

Adequate supervision means an educator can respond immediately, particularly when a child is distressed or in a hazardous situation, knowing where children are at all times and monitoring their activities actively and diligently.

The thermostat on the hot water system is set to a medium temperature to ensure children are not able to scald themselves when washing their hands.

Educators are not permitted to consume hot drinks in any area accessible to children.

The outdoor learning environment will be checked at the beginning and end of each day for water catchments, puddles or filled containers that could pose a potential risk to children.

In any water-based experiences, Educators will discuss with children that this water is for the purpose of play and not for consumption.

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.

Roles and Responsibilities

Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure current first aid qualifications for staff are met.• Evaluate the potential likelihood and consequences of risks that may be involved in a projected activity or undertaking.
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Staff/Educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embedding water safety messages into the children's education program. • Ensuring water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level and emptied or covered securely after use. • Emptying buckets and containers used for cleaning and other purposes immediately after use. • Not leaving cleaning buckets in areas accessible to children. • Providing clean drinking water at all times.
Parents/Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforcing water safety practice with children

Associated Documents

Children's Services Regulations 2020: *Regulation 112*

Child Safe Standards Policy

Excursion Policy

Document History

Version	Title	Author	Authorised	Date	Changes to Previous
1	Water Safety Policy	Centre Coordinator	COM	Nov 2021	Original