

Water Safety Policy

RATIONALE

In Australia, drowning is the leading cause of death for children under the age of five. Whilst swimming pools are an obvious risk for child related drownings; it takes as little as 5cm of water and poor supervision of a child for a drowning to occur.

There are many other water hazards in relation to child injuries and illness within or surrounding a children's service environment. These may include: nappy buckets, toilets, water troughs, wading pools, baths, spas, garden ponds, water features, fountains, pet drinking bowls, dams, beaches, rivers and creeks.

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.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
Work Health and Safety Act 2011
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011

WHO IS AFFECTED BY THIS POLICY?

Children
Staff
Parents
Families
Management

AIMS

To prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to water hazards and to comply with the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011 and the Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010

To provide guidelines for KAZ Early Learning Centre educators and staff to ensure safety to all children attending the service.

PROCEDURE

KAZ Early Learning Centre recognises the risk when children have access to any potential water hazard and are committed to providing a safe environment where water hazards and/or water play are accessible within the service.

KAZ Early Learning Centre does not have a swimming pool on the premises.

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. No excursion will be held where there is a significant water hazard.

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/Staff will ensure strict, careful supervision is maintained at all times when water play activities are provided for children (such as troughs, buckets and other water play equipment). Educators/staff will ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level. Children will be discouraged from drinking from these water activities.

Troughs and other water play containers must be emptied onto garden areas IMMEDIATELY after each use and stored to prevent the collection of water. Other water containers at the premises that could constitute a drowning hazard are safely covered or are inaccessible to children. Nappy buckets containing water will have a secure lid and be stored to ensure they are not accessible to children. The nappy bucket will always be emptied when not in use.

Following rain, educators/staff will check the yard and empty water that has collected in sandpits, buckets, drains and other containers.

Educators/staff will teach children about staying safe in and around water.

Clean drinking water will be provided at all times. This water will be supervised to ensure that it is safe and hygienic for consuming. Children will bring in water bottles from home, these bottles are refilled during the day and sent home to be washed daily. Educators/staff are to clean water bottles if they are left at the Service over night.

The Nominated Supervisor will ensure that any open drains are covered with a secure grill.

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

Adults may carry and consume hot drinks only in a thermal cup or mug with a screw lid that prevents spilling.

Water for pets at the setting must be changed regularly and only be accessible to children when adults are present.

KAZ Early Learning Centre educators/staff are qualified first aiders and have access to a fully equipped First Aid Kit (see First Aid Kit List) and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) charts. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) charts are displayed in the play room and outdoor playgrounds for educators/staff to access at all times.

Educators/staff will provide parents/guardians with access to resources and information regarding water safety to further educate families in the prevention of child accidents and illnesses relating to swimming, wading pools and other water hazards outside the service.

KAZ Early Learning Centre Related Policies:

Supervision Policy

Excursion Policy

Appendices:

First Aid Kit List

Sources:

The Children's Hospital Westmead www.chw.edu.au/parents/factsheets

KidSafe NSW www.kidsafensw.org/watersafety/index.htm

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

REVIEW

The policy will be reviewed annually. Review will be conducted by management, employees, parents and any interested parties.