Water Safety Policy

Quality Area 2: Children’s health and safety
Standard 2.3: Each child is protected
Element 2.3.1: Children are adequately supervised at all times
Element 2.3.2: Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury

Our aim is to offer a safe environment in which the children within our program can use water. Children need opportunities to develop their understanding of the natural environment. Experiences with water encourage active exploration and discovery of the environment.

To prevent childhood accidents relating to water hazards we will:

- Closely supervise children near water at all times
- Never leave children alone near any water
- Supervised by at least two adults if children are using a paddling pool/water play
- Educators will ensure children in a bath are directly supervised at all times – an Educator is to remain within arms reach of young children at all times while being bathed and/or water is still in the bath
- Educators will ensure fish / frog ponds and water features that are not able to be adequately supervised at all times and/or pose an unacceptable risk to children are guarded or effective barriers are in place
- Educators will complete a daily Safety Inspection of premises to ensure that all hazards are known
- When a hazard or potential hazard is detected, Educators will complete a risk assessment to address any concerns
- Water activities will be utilised in appropriate weather for an experience with water play
- The water activity will allow the children the opportunity to experiment with water, sand and mixing materials plus a place for boats & floating objects to be used with other water play equipment
- The tap will be monitored by staff and turned off securely when not in use
- Safely cover or make inaccessible to children all water containers, e.g. nappy buckets
- Premises adjacent to or providing access to, any water hazards that are not able to be adequately supervised at all times (e.g. dams, swimming pool) are to be isolated from children by a child resistant barrier or fence
- When children are taken on an excursion to swim or where there is a significant water hazard, Educators are to conduct a risk assessment in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 100 and 101 of the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011.
• Empty wading pools immediately after every use, store to prevent the collection of water, e.g. upright, also check garden after rain or watering and empty water that has collected in holes or containers

• Children will be encouraged to use water effectively and along with staff learn new ways to save and re-use water

• At least one Educator who holds a current approved first aid qualification must be in attendance at all times

• Children are to have safe independent access to clean and cool drinking water at all times

Alternative points or statements for you to consider...

• Water troughs are to be used under adult supervision only and will not be used without a stand, keeping it off the ground with sand on the bottom of the trough

• Children are to remain standing on the ground whilst using the water trough

• Buckets of water for soaking toys or clothing are only to be stored in the sink so that they are inaccessible to children

• Storerooms and Educator areas are to have No Children Allowed Signs on doors to remind adults to close doors behind them

• Children will also be informed of the meaning of these signs

Date that the policy was last updated or revised: January 2015

(This policy was written with consideration given to: Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011)

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