

Tottenham War Memorial Early Childhood Centre

Water Safety Policy

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 regarding water in the Centre environment.

Statutory Legislation and Considerations:

Education and Care Services National Law
Education and Care Services National Regulations
Links to National Quality Standards

Rationale:

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 for drinking.

The Nominated Supervisor will:

- Ensure that this policy and procedures are developed, maintained and implemented always.
- Provide guidance and education to educators and families on the importance of children's safety in and around water.
- Ensure work, health and safety practices incorporate appropriate approaches to safe storage of water play equipment.
- Children are supervised always in and around any body of water including water troughs and toilets.
- Guidance and advice is provided to ensure adherence to the policy.
- Ensure First Aid and CPR qualifications and requirements are met.

Educators will:

- Ensure that water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level.
- Ensure that these activities are supervised always, and containers or troughs are emptied onto garden areas after use. Children will be discouraged against drinking from these water sources.
- Teach children about staying safe in and around water.
- Empty buckets used for cleaning immediately after use. No buckets are left in play areas or accessible to children.
- Make all water containers inaccessible to children (eg. ponds, spas, nappy buckets, bathtubs [plug away])
- Ensure that children's play areas are safely fenced off from water hazards such as dams, creeks, lakes, irrigation channels, wells.
- Check garden after rain and watering to empty water that has collected in depressions or containers.
- Provide clean drinking water always. This water will be supervised to ensure that it is safe and hygienic for consuming. Water containers will be securely sealed. At the end of each day, the water container will be emptied and cleaned thoroughly.

Operational Safety:

- Children near grey water systems or rainwater tanks will be supervised to make sure they are not accessing the water for drinking. Educators will discuss with the children that this water is for play and not for consumption.
- Hot water accessible to children will be maintained at the temperature of 38°C. Thermostatic valves to be tested and serviced by a plumber.
- Adults may carry and consume hot drinks only in an approved thermal mug.
- Water for pets at the Centre must be changed regularly and only be accessible to children when adults are present.

Excursions:

- A risk assessment will be conducted prior to any excursion taking place. Particular attention will be focused upon water safety when the excursion is near a body of water.
- Educators must ensure that if children are taken on any excursion near any body of water, the minimum adult-to-child ratio of persons participating in the excursion is:
 - 1 adult for each child who is under 3 years of age, and
 - 1 adult for each 2 children who are 3 or more years of age, and
 - 1 adult for each 5 children who normally attend school (primary school age).
- The Nominated Supervisor must ensure that children are not taken on an excursion to a beach, river, lake or other place where there is a significant water hazard.

Evaluation:

Supervision and access to water within the Centre is managed effectively by educators to ensure that children remain safe and healthy.

Sources:

National Health and Medical Research Council – www.nhmrc.gov.au
NSW Department of Health – www.health.nsw.gov.au
Community Child Care Co-operative sample template – Water Safety Policy
Pool and Water Safety – www.kidsafe.com.au
Water and use restrictions see – www.sydneywater.com.au

Ratified:.....

Date:.....

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